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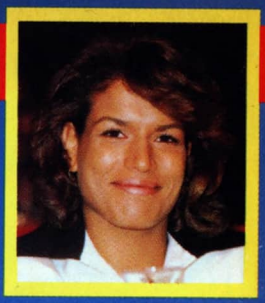

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LATEST IBO WORLD RATINGS AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Brian Nielson 1-Lennox Lewis 2-Evander Holyfield 3-Andrew Golota 4-Michael Moorer 5-Ray Mercer 6-Kirk Johnson 7-Michael Grant 8-Ike Ibeabuchi 9-David Tua 10-Don Steele

CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: James Toney 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominquez 3-Uriah Grant 4-Robert Daniels 5-Fabrice Tiozzo 6-Kenny Keene 7-Kenny Murphy 8-Chris Eubank 9-Don Diego Poeder 10-Tiwon Taylor

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Roy Jones Jr. 2-Dariusz Michalczewski 3-Montell Griffin 4-William Guthrie 5-Fredrik Alvarez 6-Graciano Rocchigiani 7-Virgil Hill 8-Jose Luis Rivera 9-Michael Nunn 10-Lou Del Valle

SP.MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Steve Collins 2-Frank Liles 3-Robin Reid 4-Joseph Kiwanuka 5-Roberto Duran 6-Charles Brewer 7-Henry Wharton 8-Vinny Pazienza 9-Jorge Castro 10-Omar Sheika

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Bernard Hopkins 2-Julio Cesar Green 3-Keith Holmes 4-Dana Rosenblatt 5-William Joppy 6-Freeman Barr 7-Paul Vaden 8-Quincy Taylor 9-Lonnie Bradley 10-Jerry Brown

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Laurent Boudaouani 3-Winky Wright 4-Raul Marquez 5-Terry Norris 6-Julio Cesar Vasquez 7-Kieth Mullings 8-Hector Camacho 9-Nick Rupa 10-Anthony Stephens

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Jose Rivera 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Oscar De La Hoya 3-Ike Quartey 4-Pernell Whitaker 5-Oba Carr 6-Jose Luis Lopez 7-Michael Loewe 8-Patrick Charpentier 9-Vernon Forrest 10-Peter Malinga

JR. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Johar Lashin 1-Vince Phillips 2-Miguel Angel Gonzalez 3-Khalid Rahilou 4-Kostya Tszyu 5-Frankie Randell 6-Julio Cesar Chavez 7-Paul Nave 8-Charles Murray 9-Hector Lopez 10-Rodney Wilson

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Tony Pep 1-Orzubek Nazarov 2-Shane Mosley 3-Steve Johnston 4-Phillip Holiday 5-George Scott 6-Lamar Murphy 7-Jean Baptist Mendy 8-John John Molina 9-Marco Rudolph 10-Billy Irwin

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Arturo Gatti 2-Genaro Hernandez 3-Yong Soo Choi 4-Azumah Nelson 5-Joel Casamayor 6-Angel Manfredy 7-Julien Lorcy 8-Julien Lorcy 9-Dennis Holbaek 10-Jesus Chavez

FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Naseem Hamed 2-Luisito Espinosa 3-Wilfredo Vasquez 4-Tom Johnson 5-Franciso Segura 6-David Toledo 7-Radford Beasley 8-Kevin Kelly 9-Orlando Canizales 10-Welcome Ncita

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Junior Jones 2-Vuyani Bungu 3-Antonio Cermino 4-Erik Morales 5-Marco Antonio Barrera 6-Wayne McCullough 7-Kennedy McKinney 8-Daniel Zaragoza 9-Rico Siodora 10-Lehlohonolo Ledwaba

BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Johnny Bredahl 1-Tim Austin 2-Robbie Regan 3-Nana Konadu 4-Daorung Siriwat 5-Jorge Julio 6-Sirimon Nakornthornparkview 7-Paulie Ayala 8-Mbulelo Botile 9-Veeraphol Sahaprom 10-Patrick Quka

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Johnny Tapia 2-Gerry Penalosa 3-Yokthai Sith Oar 4-Katsuya Onizuka 5-Danny Romero 6-Luis Bolanos 7-Ratanchai Sor Voraphin 8-Abbey Mnisi 9-Hiroshi Kawashima 10-Harold Grey

FLYWEIGHT Ch: Scotty Olson 1-Yuri Arbachakov 2-Mark Johnson 3-Jesus Zuniga 4-Jose Bonilla 5-David Guerault 6-Carlos Salazar 7-Saen Sow Pleonchit 8-Arthur Johnson 9-Jesper D. Jensen 10-Chatchai Dutchboygym

JR. FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Saman Sorjaturong 3-Keji Yamaguchi 4-Jake Matlala 5-Mel Cob Castro 6-Hi-Yong Choi 7-Maricio Pastrana 8-Mzukisi Sikali 9-Jesus Chong 10-Will Grigsby

MINI-FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Ratanapol Sow Voraphin 3-Rosendo Alvarez 4-Juan Herrera 5-Alex Sanchez 6-Kermin Guardia 7-Song Porpaoin 8-Chana Porpaoin 9-Rolando Tuyugon 10-Edgar Cardenas

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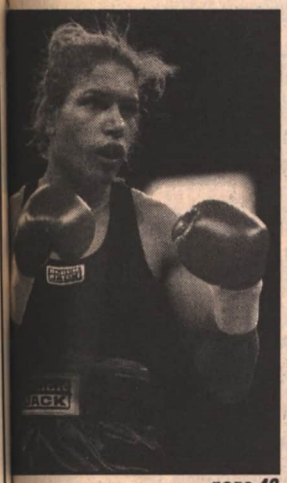

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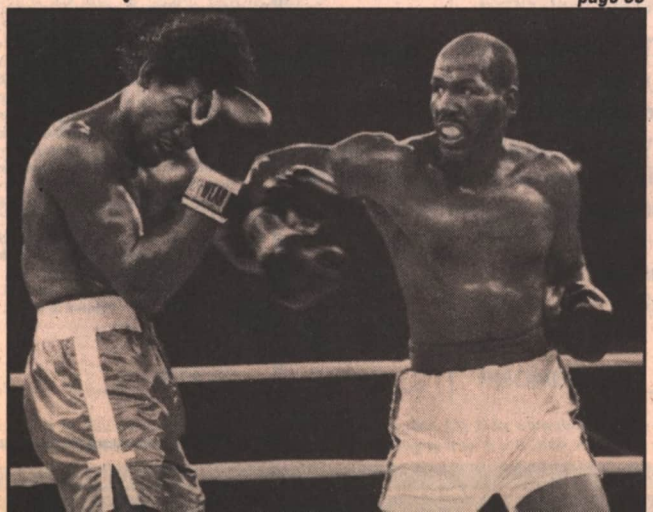

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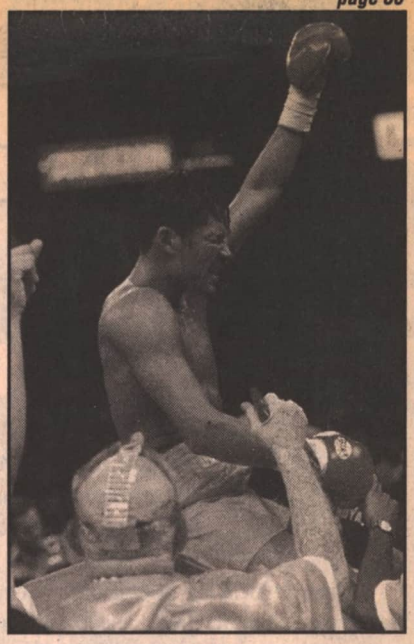

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RINGSIDE

I have a close friend who has faithfully followed boxing since the late-1950s, but has lost his passion for the sport. You see, the guy's a purist, and has soured on the Sweet Science for any number of excellent reasons. He hates split titles, setups, manufactured records, the alphabet organizations, moronic and/or rigged ratings, promotional politics, television monopolies—all the lamentable ills that plague the game as we know it today.

There's no denying that all of the above, and plenty more, are serious problems that detract from the game, making it considerably less than it ought to be. But the saddest thing about my friend's outlook is that even when a good fight comes around, as they still do from time to time, he's too jaded to enjoy it.

I, too, consider myself a purist, but regardless of how distressed I become with boxing's frequently disheartening plight, my enthusiasm for a good fight and my admiration for the men who partake in them has never diminished. Some would say that makes me a naive fool, but I consider myself lucky. When a fight begins, I forget all about the bull that preceded the opening bell. Who cares which promoter has options on which fighter, what bogus title is on the line, or whether one or both of the fighters bowled over more than his share of sadsacks on his way up the rankings? All that matters is the fight itself.

I readily concede that there are considerably more bad and mediocre fights than good ones, but boxing is like life: Things are seldom perfect, and if you get too bogged down with the bad, the good will pass you by while you're crying in your beer.

Sometimes, a terrific fight pops up most unexpectedly. Going in, the recent Oba Carr-Anthony Jones fight on USA's *Tuesday Night Fights* appeared to be just another record-padding exercise for Carr. Jones had seemed totally washed up when he retired in 1995, and a comeback kayo of human punching bag Jorge Vaca hardly convinced me that he was qualified to give the highly rated Carr a competitive fight. But as everybody who tuned in that night knows, I was dead wrong. Inspired by the fact that he was fighting a local rival and former stablemate (they were once fellow members of Detroit's famed Kronk Gym), Jones' spirit lifted him above the limitations of his body and allowed him to stay with his younger, fresher adversary throughout their bristling encounter. And when Jones dropped Carr in the ninth round, it was enough to earn him a draw.

At the sound of the final bell, the crowd at The Palace of Auburn Hills rose to its feet in a noisy tribute, and I, alone in my living room, found myself standing in front of the TV set clapping right along. It's times like this that make me glad I'm not like my burnt-out buddy. This doesn't mean I think we should overlook boxing's numerous problems. I'm simply saying that it's misguided to become so wrapped up in the negative side of the sport that you forget why you fell in love with it in the first place.

Nigel Collins
Editor-In-Chief

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

REID ALL ABOUT IT

After watching his last couple fights, quick kayo wins over Geoff Yalenezian and Jorge Vaca, it is becoming more and more apparent that David Reid could be boxing's next superstar. Reid still has a lot to prove, as his opposition thus far has been average at best, and we can't know much about his stamina and ability to take punishment if he keeps finishing guys off in the first and second rounds, but it seems his management team is moving him along at the right pace and he's adjusting to his exposure with a level-headed perspective. From reading the article "It's Getting Easier For David Reid" (December 1997), Reid comes off as confident but not cocky, aware that he's got to take every fight seriously if he wants to keep his undefeated record intact.

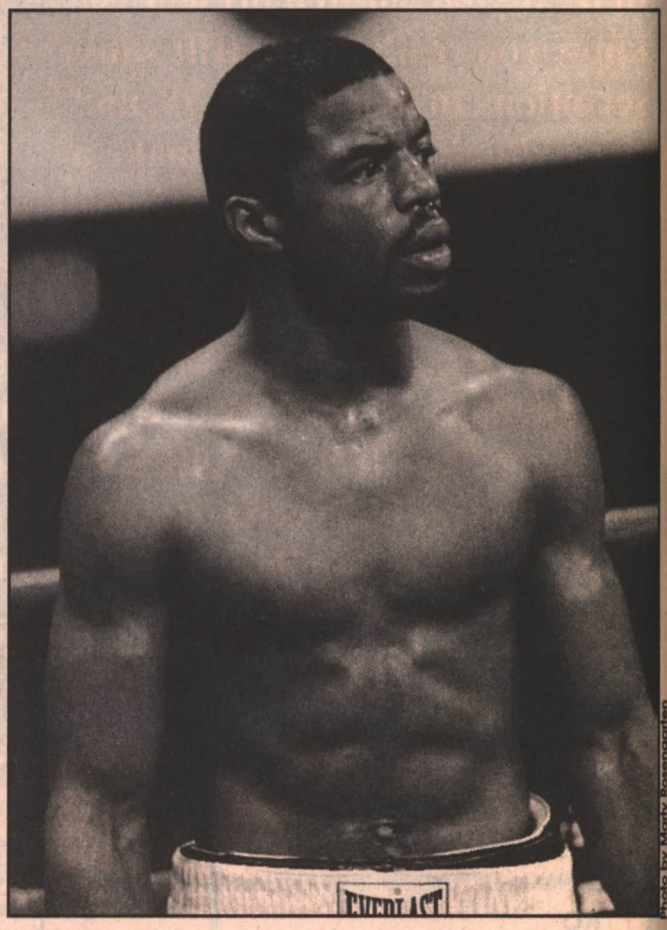


Photo by Mardy Rosengarten

Since winning Olympic gold, David Reid has cruised to a 5-0 (4) record, and should continue to be successful as the competition improves. "The American Dream" may well be boxing's next big superstar.

His 46-second destruction of former world champion Vaca served as a warning to all the middleweight and junior middleweight titleholders that David Reid is always just one dazzling punch away from winning. Vaca walked into one of the most fearsome straight right hands I've ever seen. Reid got to display his incredible power a little longer in his previous fight, a second round win over previously undefeated Yalenezian. By the time that one was over, Reid's unfortunate opponent was a bloody mess with a broken nose, someone who learned firsthand about Reid's awesome potential.

The 1996 Olympic class is doing extremely well for themselves in the pros, but "The American Dream" really stands out in this talented pack.

STEVE McNEILL
New Haven, CT

THE REMATCH MASTER

THE RING Classic in the December 1997 issue about the second meeting of Joe Louis and Billy Conn made an excellent point as to Joe's dominance in rematches. All through his career, Joe would

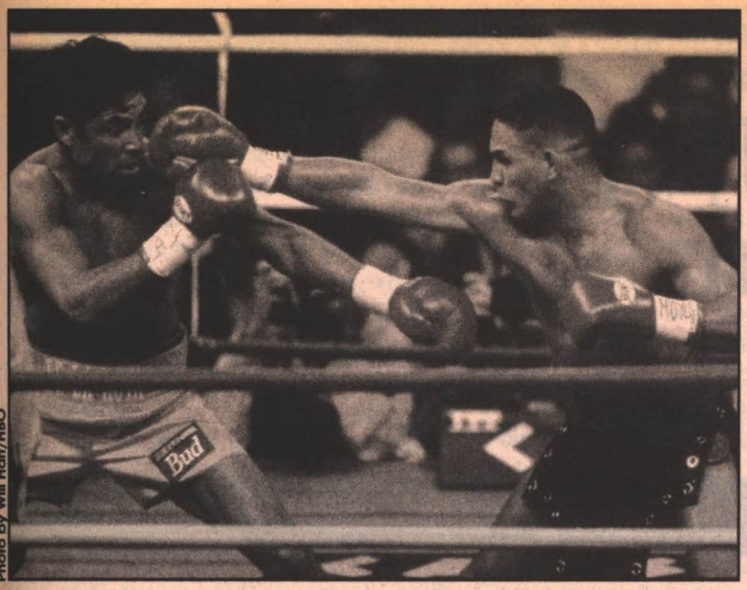


Photo by Will Hart/HBO

No matter what he does, there will always be fans who think Oscar De La Hoya is overrated. He dominated Hector Camacho, knocked him down, and battled through 12 rounds of constant holding, but many feel he needed the knockout to prove himself.

beat the living daylights out of the same guys who gave him fits the first time around.

That's why I tell people my all-time dream fight would be to see a rematch, yes, a *rematch*, of Louis and Muhammad Ali.

Louis generally had a tough time with great boxers, so it's highly conceivable the greatest dancing master of them all would have beaten Joe the first time around. But Joe's amazing ability to learn from his mistakes makes me think he'd actually pull out a victory in a rematch.

In that regard, Joe Louis was the greatest of them all.

PAUL MINNIS
Evansville, IA

OSCAR OPPOSITION

If Oscar De La Hoya couldn't knock out a washed-up Hector Camacho, what could he possibly do against Ike "Bazooka" Quartey? De La Hoya would be dismembered. Sure, sometimes De La Hoya looks good vs. these over-the-hill champions, but real fighters like Quartey or Felix Trinidad would bring him the truth. These are fighters who didn't have the luxury of having hand-picked opponents from their very first fight. They earned their way to the top in obscurity. These types of fighters beat anyone put in front of them to get to where they are. De La Hoya's been ducking fighters. He's only pound-for-pound because he doesn't fight anyone who can really pound on him. A title defense with Camacho? Please, he could've at least delivered the knockout.

JERRY SMITH
Waxohachie, TX

IT TAKES TUA

I watched David Tua's fight on June 7 against the very talented Ike Ibeabuchi, and I thought it was a marvelous contest between two ring warriors and certain future champions. Both fighters are a credit to the sport of boxing that recently sustained severe blows by the actions of Mike Tyson and Andrew Golota.

It is my opinion and the general consensus of many who viewed that battle of attrition that David Tua did enough to win. Unfortunately, incompetent judging and the hidden agendas of promoters cost Tua his perfect ring record. What many people aren't aware of is the fact that this true Samoan warrior fought a tough and formidable opponent with one hand. His trademark left hook was all but nullified due to injuries sustained in training and further damaged by continuing to fight without receiving proper medical attention. He has since undergone surgery to repair the injured areas.

I blame this tremendous setback on his management team, Lou Duva and Kevin Barry, for not taking care of their charge, the idol of the Samoan people. It appears that history is repeating itself, condemning the Duvas to relive past mistakes (Rocky Lockridge, Johnny Bumpus, Vinny Pazienza, Pernell Whitaker). Ring any bells?

David Tua, the Titanic is sinking. Swim for safety or perish like many other misguided and lost souls. Look into your heart for truth, it won't deceive you. Your career is at stake.

TAMA SAMOA
San Francisco, CA

KIWANUKA RISING

Hard-punching and much-improved super middleweight Joseph Kiwanuka is a fighter we should keep an eye on. His tremendous punching power and 82-inch reach could pose serious threats to Frankie Liles, Steve Collins, Robin Reid, and Charles Brewer. Kiwanuka is still a bit raw, but he has improved in every fight. He has just as much pure power as Roy Jones. In a lot of ways, he reminds me of Mike McCallum. Look for Joseph Kiwanuka to be on top of the division by next year.

STEPHEN DONATELLI
Pittsburgh, PA ■

Photo by Robert Cassidy

Super middleweights beware, Joseph Kiwanuka is a top-notch fighter. The much-improved and hard-hitting Ugandan has an excellent chance of winning a world title by the end of next year.

ROUND ONE

TRAGEDY IN VEGAS

Back in his native Minnesota, Johnny Montantes' boxing career was cruising right along. But the promising lightweight was always looking west, obsessed with a dream of someday fighting in Las Vegas. In 1996, Montantes finally made the break from his family ties in St. Paul and moved to "The Valley Of The Dollars," where he hoped his boxing career would flourish.

Montantes, 26-4 (21), spent four months training intensely for his September 26, 1997, fight with James Crayton under the tutelage of Wes Wolfe, who guided Greg Haugen to the IBF lightweight crown in the mid-'80s. Montantes' destiny, though, was to be a tragic one. He died of a massive blood clot on the brain 40 hours after being knocked out by Crayton at the Orleans Casino.

Montantes was competitive until being dropped by a right to the jaw late in the sixth round. It was not a devastating punch, but Montantes landed heavily on his back, with the thudding impact of his head striking the canvas resonating throughout the arena. Referee Kenny Bayless, sensing the stricken fighter's plight, did not bother to count, awarding Crayton, 24-6-1 (14), a TKO victory at 2:35 of the round.

Photo by Chris Farina

Medical attendants work quickly to get Montantes to the University Medical Center

Three physicians attended to Montantes in the ring before he was rushed to the University Medical Center. He was immediately admitted to surgery where neurosurgeon John Anson, assisted by Dr. Robert Voy, operated to control a massive subdural hematoma on the right side of the brain.

"As quick as we moved, the blood clot on Montantes' brain was so massive, there really wasn't much that could be done," Dr. Voy said. "He never regained consciousness from the instant his head hit the canvas."

Montantes' death is the first in a Nevada ring since Colombia's Jimmy Garcia died 12 days after being TKO'd in the 11th round on May 18, 1995, by then-WBC super featherweight champion Gabriel Ruelas at Caesars Palace.

—Jack Welsh

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

Students of boxing's bare-knuckle era will be thrilled to know that Volume One of Pierce Egan's *Boxiana* (443 pages hardcover, Nicol Island Publishing) has been reprinted in its entirety for the first time since the 19th century. Originally published in book form in 1813, *Boxiana* covers the sport from the days of Jack Broughton, who fought from 1729 until 1750, through pugilists still active at the time Egan wrote the first of his three-volume masterpiece. (There was a fourth volume, but most scholars believe it was written by Jonathan Badcock.)

All the famous bare-knuckle champions of the era—Tom Johnson, Daniel Mendoza, John Jackson, Jem Belcher, Henry Pearce, John Gully, and Tom Cribb—are included, as well as most of their contemporaries. Egan's colorful and insightful descriptions of the fights and fighters set the standard by which all future boxing scribes are judged. A.J. Liebling, widely regarded as the 20th century's finest boxing writer, considered Egan the greatest ring reporter of all-time and frequently referred to him in his writing.

Egan's impact, however, went far beyond the field of boxing journalism. He was one of the very first authors to write about the common man in easily accessible language, and clearly influenced Charles Dickens. William Makepeace Thackeray and George Bernard Shaw were both Egan fans.

Even readers who aren't normally interested in the bare-knuckle epoch will probably become converts after reading a few pages of Egan's lively prose. And for boxing historians, the reprinting of *Boxiana* is the publishing event of the year.

Boxiana is available by mail order ($50 U.S./$60 Canadian, including tax, shipping, & handling) from Nicol Island Publishing, 288 Mill Rd., Suite B-14, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada M9C 4Z7.

—Nigel Collins

ALI KEEPS A 17-YEAR-OLD PROMISE

A former sparring partner of Muhammad Ali's while he trained at his Deer Lake, Pennsylvania, camp during the 1970s and early-1980s, George Dillman of Reading, Pennsylvania, is now the proud owner of the six-acre piece of property and all the boxing history that goes with it.

Ali had recently put the property on the market with an asking price of $300,000. When Dillman heard about it, he remembered that Ali offered it to him for $100,000, 17 years ago. Dillman phoned the real estate agent in charge and asked jokingly if the offer to him was still good. Soon after, Dillman, astonished to hear that Ali said the deal still stood, bought the property.

Photo by Dan Hirshberg

Kimberly and George Dillman in front of Ali's gym at Deer Lake.

Several months later, Dillman and his wife Kimberly, as well as a steady stream of friends and associates, began restoring a number of buildings, including what was the gym, the home that housed Ali's parents, and other surrounding buildings, as they prepared to open up the facility as a bed-and-breakfast and an Ali museum. The Dillmans anticipate having all the buildings on the property restored by June 1998 for a grand opening celebration, with Ali and other former camp members as guests.

—Dan Hirshberg

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
8-29-97	Verno Phillips KO 11 Godfrey Nyakana	ESPN2	jm	C-	B-	B
Big left hooks finally take out game Nyakana						
9-5-97	James Gaines KO 6 Terrance Lewis	ESPN2	h	C-	B+	B-
Rotund Gaines too much for untested Lewis						
9-9-97	Arthur Williams W 12 Steve Little	USA	USBA c	C-	C+	B-
More competitive than it should have been						
9-10-97	Terry Norris KO 2 Andres Arellano	DIRECTV	jm	C-	D	D
Another "staying busy" blowout for Norris						
9-12-97	**Stevie Johnston W 12 Saul Duran**	**ESPN**	**WBC l**	**B+**	**B**	**A-**
Johnston shows grit when forced to brawl						
9-12-97	Simon Brown KO 5 Reuben Bell	Fox Sports	m	B-	A	B-
Veteran Brown stays in the hunt						
9-13-97	**Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Hector Camacho**	**PPV**	**WBC w**	**A-**	**B-**	**C-**
Golden Boy has too many weapons for Camacho						
9-13-97	**Raul Marquez W 12 Keith Mullings**	**PPV**	**IBF jm**	**B+**	**B+**	**A**
Marquez gets gift nod over surprising Mullings						
9-13-97	Butterbean D 4 Bill Eaton	PPV	h	D	B	B-
The Bean floored early, but hangs on for tie						
9-13-97	Paulie Ayala W 10 Ricardo Medina	PPV	b	C+	B-	B+
Medina game till the end; can Ayala kayo anyone?						
9-13-97	Lucia Rijker KO 3 Andrea Deshong	PPV	jw	C-	B	B-
Rijker too strong for fading Deshong						
9-16-97	**Mark Johnson W 12 Angel Almena**	**USA**	**IBF fl**	**B+**	**B-**	**B**
"Too Sharp" way too much for inexperienced Almena						
9-19-97	Alfonso Sanchez KO 3 Charles Murray	ESPN2	w	B	A-	B
Sanchez impressive; end of the road for "The Natural"						
9-19-97	Enrique Sanchez W 12 Nelson Ramon Medina	Telemundo	NABF jf	A-	B+	C
Sanchez dominates in one-sided bout						
9-23-97	Tracy Harris Patterson W 10 Rudy Zavala	USA	f	B+	A	B
Patterson superb in 10-round war						
9-23-97	David Reid KO 2 Geoff Yalenezian	USA	m	B	A	C
Reid too strong for early opponents						
9-26-97	Don Diego Poeder W 12 Courtney Butler	ESPN2	c	C	B-	B
Poeder flat, Butler passive						

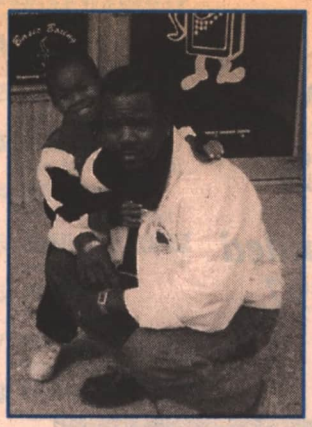
Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

WISE THINKING

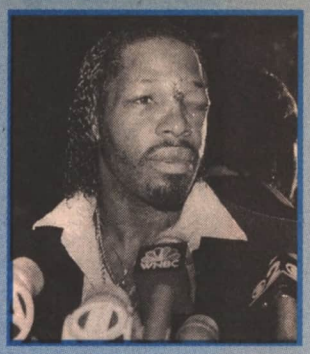


Dominique Wise puts his arms around his dad, welterweight contender William Wise

On July 11, the Dominique Wise Foundation was created in honor of welterweight contender William Wise's son Dominique. Three-year-old Dominique is afflicted with a severe case of Chronic Seizure Disorder (CSD), a disease that causes him to often endure eight or nine seizures a day lasting upwards of 20 minutes each.

The medical expenditures caused by CSD are overwhelming, as the Wise family's total cost for treatment is now approaching $80,000. After seeing a TV special about the Wise family's plight on *Fox News*, a group of concerned Long Islanders banded together to form the Foundation, whose purpose is threefold: to help families afford treatment for CSD; to establish a national fund for CSD-afflicted children; and to increase awareness of CSD. Former WBC and IBF welterweight champion James "Buddy" McGirt acts as public relations director for the Dominique Wise Foundation, and Wise, who is scheduled to fight Pernell Whitaker in the near future, is his son's Foundation's Chairman. More information is available online at *http://www.saturnfive.com/wisefoundation* or by calling (516) 586-7258.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Green after streetfight with Tyson

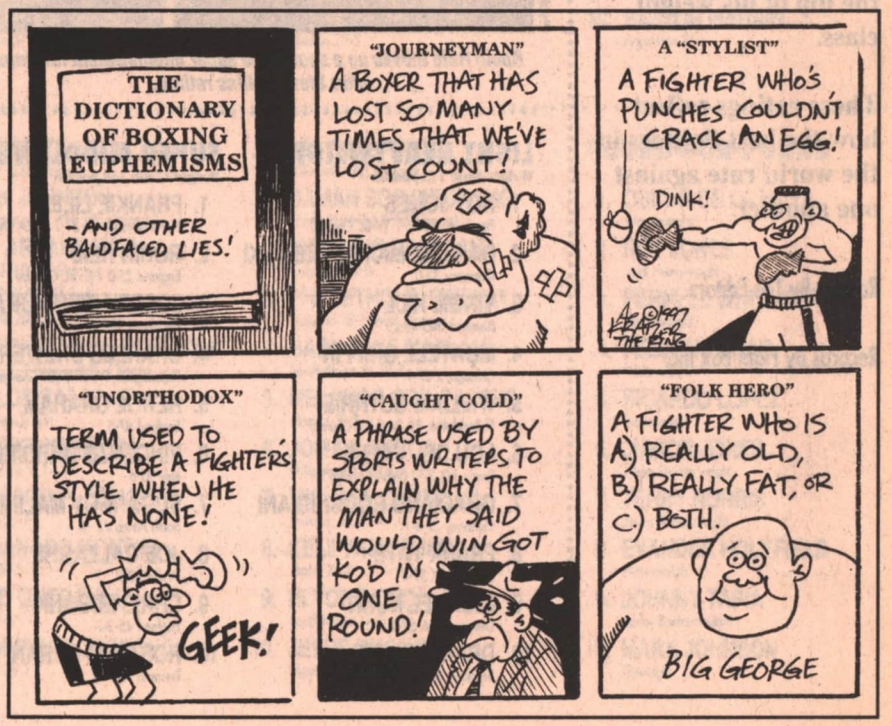
When **Mike Tyson** and **Mitch "Blood" Green** met in the ring in 1986, the judges found in favor of Tyson, awarding him the 10-round decision. Now the two are squaring off again in civil court, as Green is suing Tyson for $25-million in Manhattan's State Supreme Court for beating him up on a Harlem street on August 23, 1988. The trial opened on September 29 with Green's lawyer, **Alan Rich**, insisting that Tyson instigated the "savage" beating, while Tyson's lawyer, **Robert Hirth**, said that the ex-champ was merely fighting back ... Heavyweight contender **Ike Ibeabuchi** recently spent more than a week in Williamson County jail in Texas after being charged with attempted murder and aggravated kidnapping, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported that. Ibeabuchi was released from jail on September 10 after posting $100,000 bail. His handlers declined to comment ... Late sub **Carl Madison** was allowed to fight light heavyweight **David Lawhorn** even though he is HIV positive. **Natasha Altenor** of the Massachusetts Boxing Commission said that Madison, who was stopped in the opening round, was permitted to fight before the results of his test were reported to the commission.

THE PUNCHLINES

"Somebody stole my stuff."
—Muhammad Ali upon learning that Christie's would be auctioning an enormous cache of Ali memorabilia owned by Long Island businessman Ronnie Paloger.

"Whew, that was a tough one."
—A jocular David Reid after blowing away former WBC welterweight champion Jorge Vacca with one punch, 46 seconds into the first round of his fifth pro fight.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended October 8, 1997

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Robin Reid moves up a spot in the super middleweight rankings after Steve Collins retired.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Fairburn, GA *34-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *39-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **RAY MERCER** — West Orange, NJ *24-4-1*
5. **DAVID TUA** — Totowa, NJ *27-1*
6. **TIM WITHERSPOON** — Philadelphia, PA *45-5*
7. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Marshall, TX *76-4*
8. **IKE IBEABUCHI** — Dallas, TX *17-0*
9. **ANDREW GOLOTA** — Chicago, IL *28-3*
10. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *32-1-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA *30-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **URIAH GRANT** — Miami, FL *26-12 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** — Argentina *22-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *26-4-2*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *37-1*
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** — Miami, FL *35-3-1*
7. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *40-2*
8. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** — Germany *21-0*
9. **TORSTEN MAY** — Germany *16-1*
10. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *55-4-2*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *35-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *35-0*
3. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *43-2*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *27-1*
5. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** — Philadelphia, PA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **LOU DEL VALLE** — Bronx, NY *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *39-4-1*
8. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *39-4*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *52-3*
10. **DRAKE THADZI** — Brockton, MA *29-8-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *31-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ROBIN REID** — England *25-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** — Las Vegas, NV *25-1-2*
4. **CHARLES BREWER** — Philadelphia, PA *29-5 (IBF Champ)*
5. **HEROL GRAHAM** — England *47-5*
6. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** — Italy *33-6*
7. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** — South Africa *41-10*
8. **JOE CALZAGHE** — Wales *22-0*
9. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *45-2-2*
10. **ROBERTO DURAN** — Panama *100-13*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *32-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** — Brooklyn, NY *22-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES** — Washington, D.C. *29-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **WILLIAM JOPPY** — Washington, D.C. *24-1-1*
5. **LONNIE BRADLEY** — New York, NY *26-0-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** — Canada *29-1-1*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT** — Malden, MA *29-1*
8. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** — England *30-0*
9. **BRIAN BARBOSA** — Providence, RI *23-3*
10. **HASSINE CHERIFI** — France *24-2-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *47-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *59-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *37-1*
5. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *33-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-4-1*
8. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *23-2*
9. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *68-2*
10. **DAVIDE CIARLANTE**
    Italy *23-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *26-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *40-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *39-3-1*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *42-2-1*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *25-4-1*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *27-2-1*
9. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *22-0*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *37-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *31-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *99-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *42-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-1-1*
6. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-5-1*
7. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *49-3*
8. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA *36-6-1*
9. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *26-2*
10. **ALFONSO SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *17-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *25-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *31-1*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *32-1*
6. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
7. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *26-2*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *43-4*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
    Uzbekistan *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *29-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *23-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *29-0*
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *22-2-1*
6. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *36-0-2*
7. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *59-5-1*
8. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *22-1*
9. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-3-2*
10. **GABE RUELAS**
    Arleta, CA *44-4*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *27-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *41-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *49-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *47-1-2*
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *22-1*
6. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *14-0*
7. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *21-4*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *46-3-1*
9. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
10. **EVER BELENO**
    Colombia *37-3*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *44-2*
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *33-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-2*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-8-3*
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *32-3-1*
9. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *27-0-1*
10. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *23-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *17-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *16-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *37-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *37-1*
5. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-1*
6. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *23-0*
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *13-1*
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *61-6-3*
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico *24-1-1*
10. **PASTOR MAURIN**
    Argentina *36-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *41-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-2*
3. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *38-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *14-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
8. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *22-1-1*
9. **RATANACHAI SOR VORAPIN**
   Thailand *24-3*
10. **JULIO GAMBOA**
    Nicaragua *21-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *33-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *23-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *30-1 (Interim WBC Champ)*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *45-7-3*
6. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *17-3*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *34-3*
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *9-0*
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand *30-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *36-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0*
3. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *18-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *46-10-2*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *50-5-4*
6. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *22-3*
7. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *45-4*
8. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *22-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **JESUS CHONG**
    Mexico *31-8*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
8. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
9. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

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April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

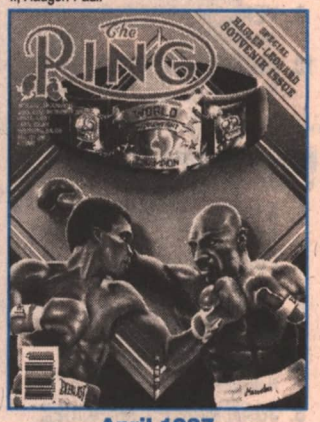
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.



April 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: All-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando

Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mencini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING'S 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Aug. 1997: Keep Your Word, Oscar ... Give "Sweet Pea" A Rematch! Plus: Shane Mosley, Tony Zale, Holyfield-Tyson II preview, Montell Griffin, Red Cochrane.

Sept. 1997: (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

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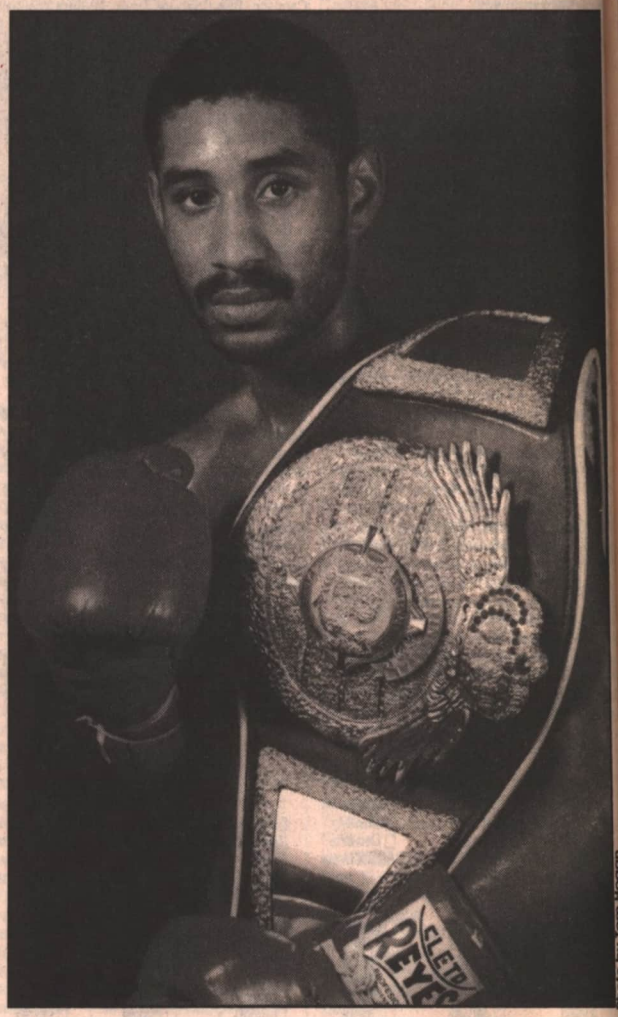

Photo by Tom Hogan

For Diego "Chico" Corrales, this is already a success story, one of those fistic triumphs where boxing provided a positive alternative. Sure, it's a cliche, but there's no better argument for the sport than a kid who discovers boxing before bad karma gets the best of him. Corrales is thankful just to be a boxer, as he's now on the rainbow ladder to fame and fortune instead of following the trouble-making path that he had walked during his early childhood in Sacramento, California. What's most important to Corrales, 20, is not that he wins every fight, but that he's grown into a productive member of society.

The story goes that Corrales was such a hell-raiser that authorities asked him to leave school at the tender age of eight. Fortunately, Corrales had solid family support, and his father enrolled him in a youth boxing program. Soon, his desire to fight became appropriately focused, while his skill and attitude gained him accolades instead of disdain.

"I lost the urge [for violence], I only wanted to fight in the ring," Corrales recalled. "Of course, being a kid, you still have your share of scuffles."

When Corrales was 15, he procured an unexpected mentor in hometown icon Tony "The Tiger" Lopez.

"Their camp heard of me and asked if I wanted to spar," said Corrales. "So I fig-

(Continued on page 54)

PRO RECORD

1996		
March 19	Everett Berry, Tempe, AZ	KO 3
March 28	Enrique Beltran, Phoenix	W 4
May 30	Victor Mendoza, Phoenix	KO 3
June 7	Ciro Canales, Las Vegas	W 4
June 27	Lorenzo Chaires, Phoenix	KO 1
Aug. 17	Cesar Morales, Albuquerque	KO 2
Sep. 13	Murphy Hughes, Des Moines, IA	KO 1
Oct. 11	Sergio Macias, Las Vegas	KO 4
Nov. 29	Juan Santos, Tijuana, Mexico	KO 1
Dec. 13	Mario Gonzalez, Tecate, Mexico	KO 1
Dec. 16	Julian Vasquez, Tijuana, Mexico	KO 1
1997		
Jan. 10	Salvador Montes, Inglewood, CA	KO 1
March 14	Idelfonso Bernal, Phoenix	KO 2
April 4	Steve Quinonez, Las Vegas	KO 4
May 9	Javier Pichardo, Las Vegas	KO 2
July 11	Manuel Castillo, Sacramento, CA	KO 11
Aug. 22	Isagani Pumar, Sacramento	KO 4

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
17	17	0	0	15

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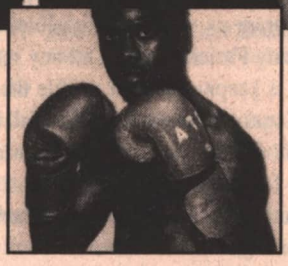

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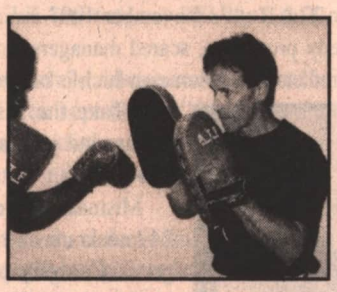

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Photo by Tom Hogan

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

AGGRAVATION PROCLAMATION

Don't mean to alarm you, but have you noticed that boxing's supply of buffoons is drying up? There used to be no shortage of true jerks making their living in this sport. If one annoyance got knocked into retirement or thrown in the can, some other walking assault on our senses would step right up and make his presence felt, like an exposed nerve in a molar. Every few years, it was fun doing a column entitled, "The Most Annoying People in Boxing" or, as it was also known, "The 10 Least Wanted List."

Sitting down to take another crack at it this month, however, proved to be a struggle. Consider: Mike Tyson is suspended, his entourage is suddenly invisible, Riddick Bowe is retired, Rock Newman is out of the game, and Vinny Pazienza hasn't hit any referees or blamed any defeats on coffee lately. Even the Duva family is keeping a lower profile these days. And if you can't count on the Duvas to make you sorry you're not on the beach volleyball beat, who can you count on?

There's a noticeable lout drought. So this time around, instead of trying to identify boxing's most annoying people, I'm going to focus on the game's 10 most annoying *things*. The stuff that gets under my skin more often than a tattoo needle gets under Johnny Tapia's.

In no particular odor, the real stinkeroos:

1) Mismatches: An article in THE RING's November 1997 issue concluded mismatches were a necessary evil. Says who? Greedy promoters, scared managers, and the USA Network? No sport rivals boxing for consistently predictable outcomes, which is one reason the fight game is staggering. Take the suspense out of any prime-time drama, and you take away all reason to sit down and watch it.

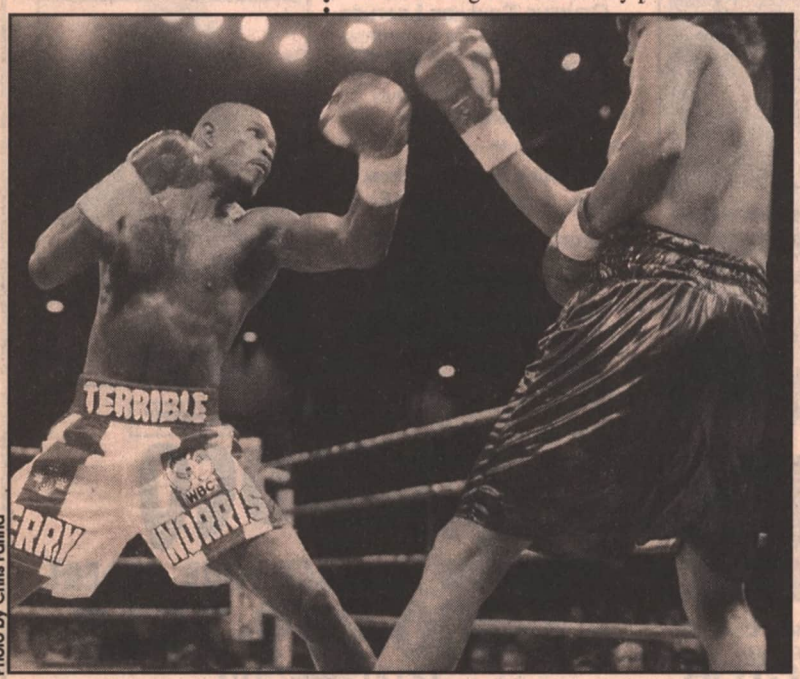


Photo by Chris Farina

Terry Norris recently picked up $75,000 for blasting out no-hoper Andreas Arellano in the second round of a non-title in Las Vegas. It's this sort of matchmaking that gets Ryan's bile churning.

Mismatches are why a fighter can be 25-0 with 24 knockouts and we still don't know if he's any good. Contrary to what the matchmakers say, boxing wouldn't go out of business if good fighters met each other frequently. In fact, the Sweet Science would actually do something it hasn't done since Tyson lost to Buster Douglas: recruit new fans.

If, for example, Ike Quartey met Felix Trinidad when both were rising contenders, what would have happened? If you answer, "One guy would have lost his unbeaten record," you're thinking like a manager. Maybe what would have happened is that both would have become better fighters than they are today, and more capable of great things. But, jeez, we couldn't risk having that happen, could we?

2) Butterbean fights: They deserve their own category because although his opponents are expected to offer about as much resistance as

Madonna on a third date, The Bean's own incredible limitations make it impossible to label his fights mismatches. (See: Mitchell Rose KO 2 Butterbean, 1995.)

The Bean proclaims himself, "King Of The Four-Rounders." Wow. And I'm the best rollerblader in my apartment building. Hey, Bean, the act is getting stale. Get a real job before you get hurt.

3) Ten-point, and five-point, must scoring: In theory, it sounds great. In practice, it's no different from the old method of scoring by rounds while relying on a supplemental points system.

The way the 10-point must system is currently utilized, a fighter who loses a round and doesn't get floored almost never gets less than nine points. If he's dropped once, he gets no less than eight. And no matter what happens—he's decked three times, is sent sailing over the top rope and into Larry Merchant's lap, or is outpunched 147-2 on the PunchStat computer—he will head back to his corner with no worse than a seven on every scorecard.

State athletic commissions should encourage more liberal interpretation of the scoring guidelines or return to the days when fighters won by counts of 8-2, 7-3, and 6-4, not 100-90, 100-90, and 100-89.

4) Women's boxing: Since my whole column was dedicated to this topic already, this rant will be kept brief. I'll just say that Christy Martin suffers more nosebleeds than the fans in the cheap seats at Madison Square Garden. It may not bother her, but it sure bothers me.

5) Pay-per-view: Grab a six-pack, make room on the coffee table for your feet, and watch superfights without having to endure obnoxious drunks, muddled audio, murky pictures, stampedes to grab a decent seat, and all of the other pleasures we used to associate with closed-circuit telecasts in theaters and arenas.

It was a great concept on paper ... but not on pay-per. Now, fights that used to play on Saturday afternoons on ABC carry $24.95 price tags on pay-per-screw. And despite the money viewers are paying, the undercards are often dreadful. But this is one annoyance I'll happily endure because the alternative, a return to CCTV, is worse. Just one request, though: Can we be spared those idiotic ...

6) TV interviews with hotel executives and ringside celebs: Let's start with the suits. At some point during the PPV telecast comes the inevitable ass-kissy Q & A with the Chief Executive Somebody in charge of something or other for the hotel hosting the fight. After watching a number of these corporate drones through the years, I find myself asking, "Wasn't there supposed to be a ban on human cloning?"

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Jane Couch pops Leah Mellinger with a straight right in the sort of action that is becoming increasingly popular with many, but certainly not all boxing fans. For some strange reason, some folks don't like to see women get beat up.

At other points during the evening, we get to hear from Hollywood stars, all of whom—and this has always puzzled me—are deathly afraid of picking a winner in the main event. Explain to me why people who can command $10-million a film are worried about being on the outs with Miguel Angel Gonzalez.

7) Newly created ruling bodies: They make me long for the golden days, when we only had to loathe the WBA, WBC, and IBF. Our only hope is that the wannabes run out of letter combinations soon.

8) The Seniors Tour: I'm throwing in my stolen Holiday Inn towel. I give up. The more fogies fighting, the better. Heck, I'm even hoping to see George Foreman-Ron Lyle II. Maybe Howard Cosell can be exhumed and propped up at the broadcast table.

9) Wimpy referees: Before every third man in the ring is allowed to work a fight again, he should be made to watch a tape of Tony Perez disqualifying Roy Jones and Mills Lane dismissing Tyson. The third man in the ring should be beholden to the rulebook, not the names on the marquee.

10) Know-it-all fans: When people I meet at a party or cookout ask me what I do for a living, I'm tempted to tell them I manage a 7-Eleven in Delaware and moonlight as a street mime. Because if I tell them I cover boxing, they pounce like a wolverine on a wounded woodchuck. "What do you think of Tyson biting Holyfield?" they'll ask. Before I can get the second word of my response out of my mouth, they're telling me what *they* think. What a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon that is.

Do I sound annoyed enough? If so, sympathize with me. If not, don't worry. I'll get my edge back for next year's column. By then, a reinstated Tyson will probably be fighting a comebacking Bowe, and Vinny Paz will be blaming the garlic in his pasta sauce for his loss to Frankie Liles. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

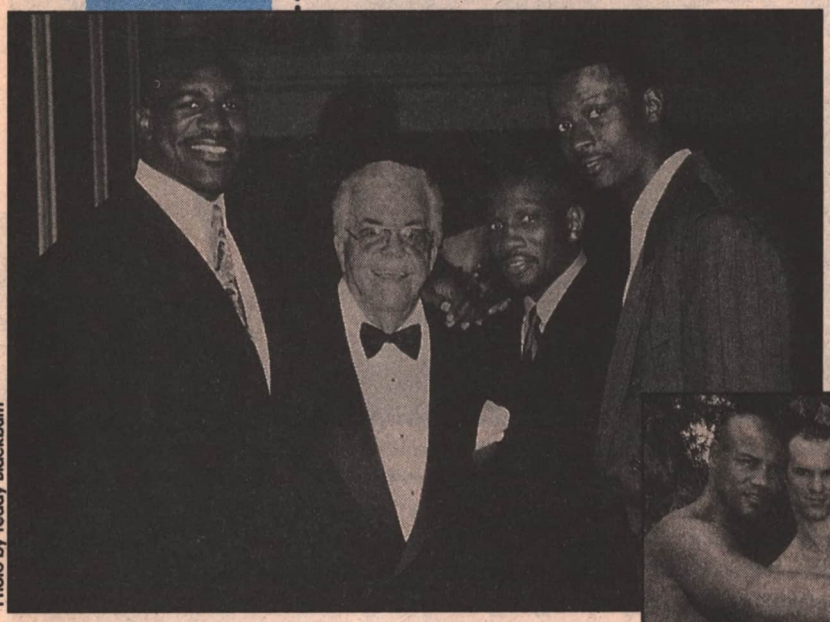


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

When Lou Duva was roasted in New Jersey, Evander Holyfield, Pernell Whitaker, and Mark Breland couldn't resist the temptation to drive Capt. Lou to the canvas with some one-liners.

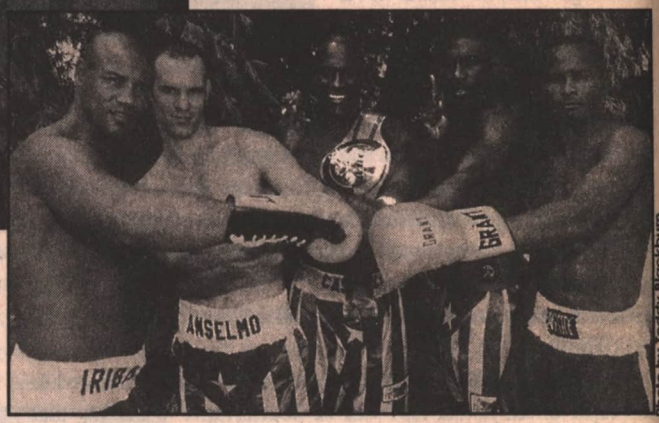
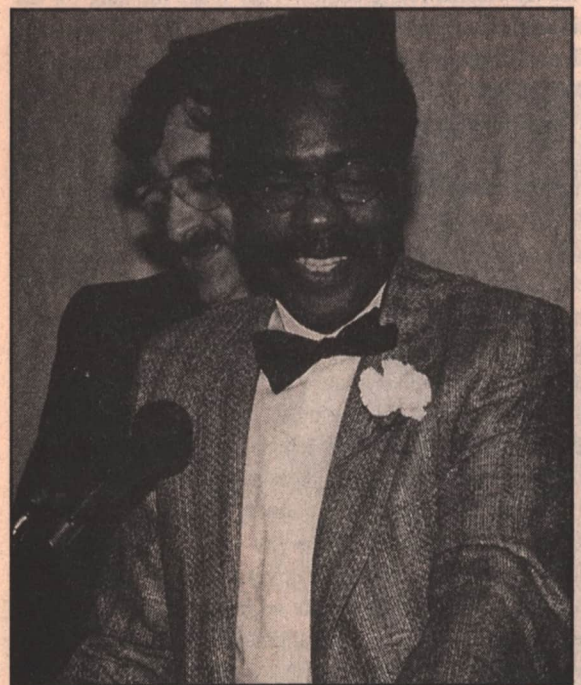


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

It's no surprise that the members of Team Freedom have been successful as pros. The Cubans, from left: middleweight Mario Iribarren, welterweight Anselmo Felipe, cruiserweight Elicer Castillo, light heavyweight Eliseo Castillo (Eliecer's brother), and welterweight Diobelys Hurtado.



Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was a special guest at the seventh annual banquet of the Rochester (New York) Boxing Hall of Fame. Among the other attendees were superstars of the past Sean O'Grady, Carmen Basilio, Michael Spinks, and Gerry Cooney.

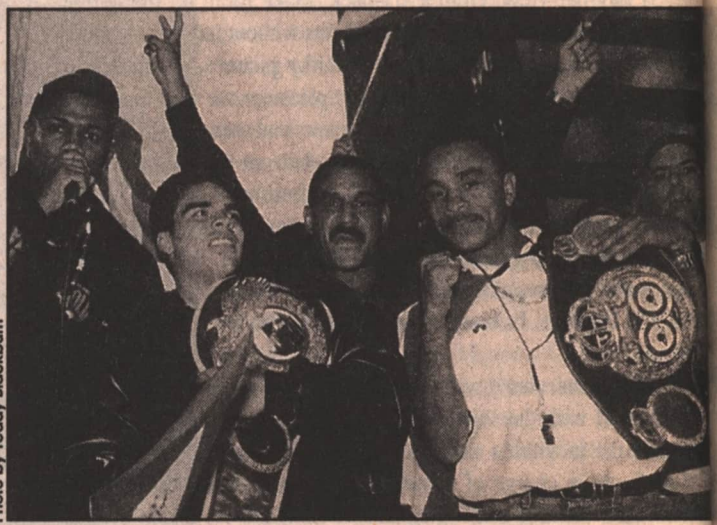


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Riding on a float of their own at the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City were (from left) Felix Trinidad, Nene Sanchez, Edwin Rosario, and Wilfredo Vazquez.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Former heavyweight contender Chuck Wepner pays a final tribute to his former manager Al Braverman, who died at age 78 in July. Braverman was in "The Bayonne Bleeder's" corner the night he challenged Muhammad Ali for the heavyweight title.

Role reversal: World champions Oscar De La Hoya and Lennox Lewis act as cornermen for their world class trainer Emanuel Steward.

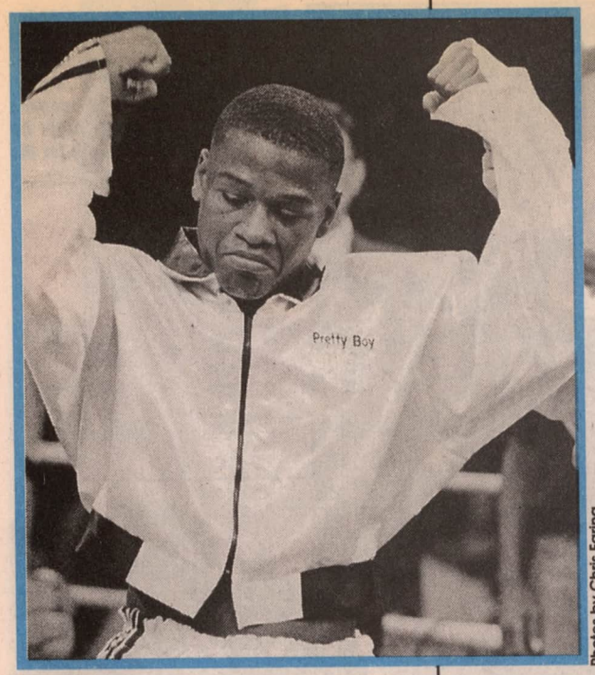
Photo courtesy All Star Cafe

She cooks, too. Christy Martin fries up a snack at a prefight press conference for her bout with Isra Girgrah at Madison Square Garden. Happily, nobody came down with a case of food poisoning.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

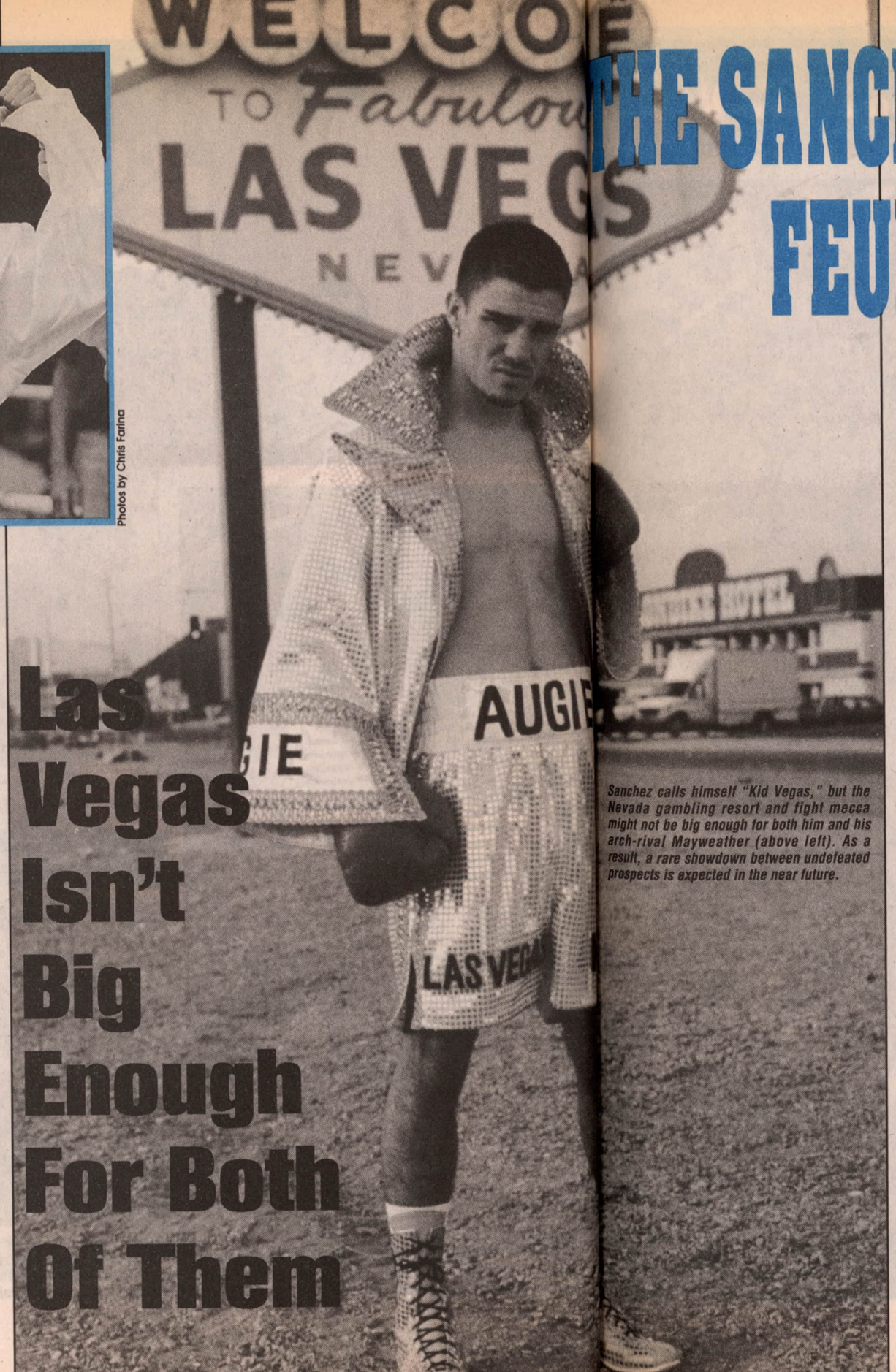
Will he get by with a little help from his friends? Preparing for his shot at heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles, Gus Lesnevich gets some pointers from (left to right) Sandy Saddler, Joe Louis, and Rocky Graziano. The photo was taken at Lesnevich's training camp in Summit, New Jersey.

THE SANCHEZ-MAYWEATHER FEUD HEATS UP!



Photos by Chris Farina

Las Vegas Isn't Big Enough For Both Of Them



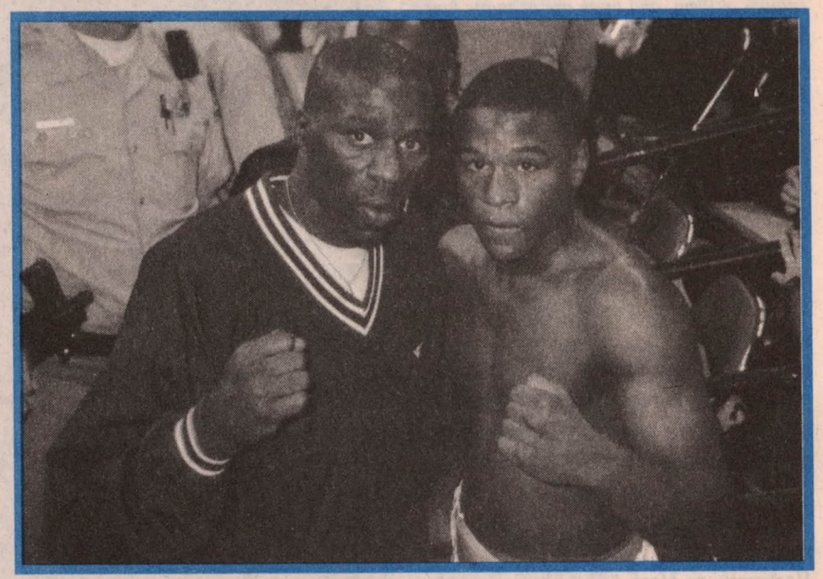
Sanchez calls himself "Kid Vegas," but the Nevada gambling resort and fight mecca might not be big enough for both him and his arch-rival Mayweather (above left). As a result, a rare showdown between undefeated prospects is expected in the near future.

By Robert Mladinich

Most boxing feuds are manufactured in the minds of promoters and publicists, others are like forces of nature, taking root in amateurs, and then blossoming into full-blown rivalries in the professional ranks. Such is the case with the unbeaten duo of Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Augie Sanchez, a pair of high-riding prospects seemingly destined to clash in a showdown that could ultimately define the shape of their careers.

In many ways Mayweather and Sanchez are strikingly similar. Sanchez, a Las Vegas native, and Mayweather, a transplant from Grand Rapids, Michigan, are both now based in Las Vegas, and both fight with a sense of urgency and deliberation that borders on the maniacal. Besides being fascinated with the sport from a historical perspective, both are astute, introspective students of the game. They view their sport as much more than a means to an end; their entire physiological and emotional development has been centered around boxing. Their familial boxing bloodlines run deep, as do their personal histories. As amateurs they fought each other four times, with Mayweather emerging victorious three times. Two of those decisions were in the 1996 Olympic Box-offs, and therein lies the origin of their dispute.

(Continued on page 56)



Uncle Roger Mayweather, the two-time former junior welterweight champion, brings a lifetime of experience to Floyd Junior's corner. It's a family affair with Floyd Senior, a journeyman in the 1970s, managing his son and Uncle Jeff, an active lightweight, working as assistant trainer.

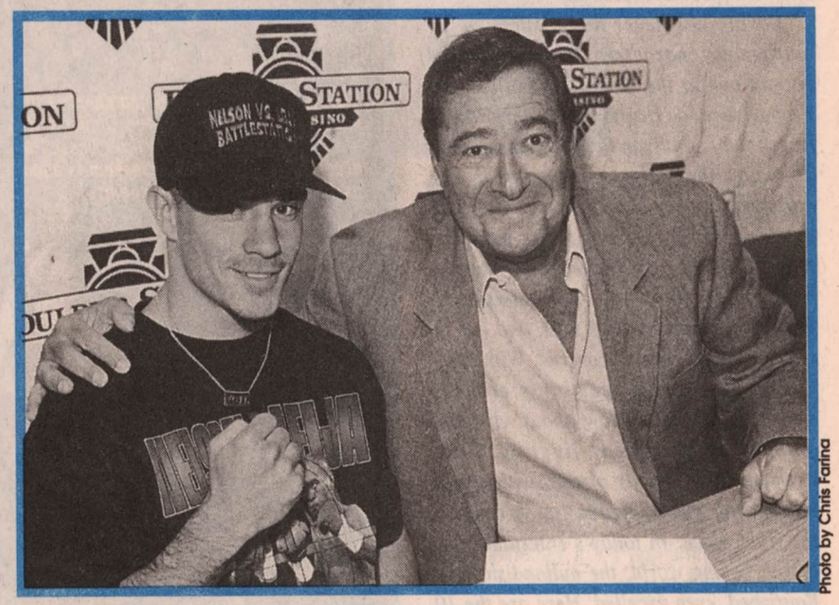


Photo by Chris Farina

As both fighters are under contract with Top Rank, Bob Arum should have no trouble making a Mayweather-Sanchez match. Like Mayweather, Sanchez' family has deep roots in boxing.

Outrageous ... Even By Boxing Standards

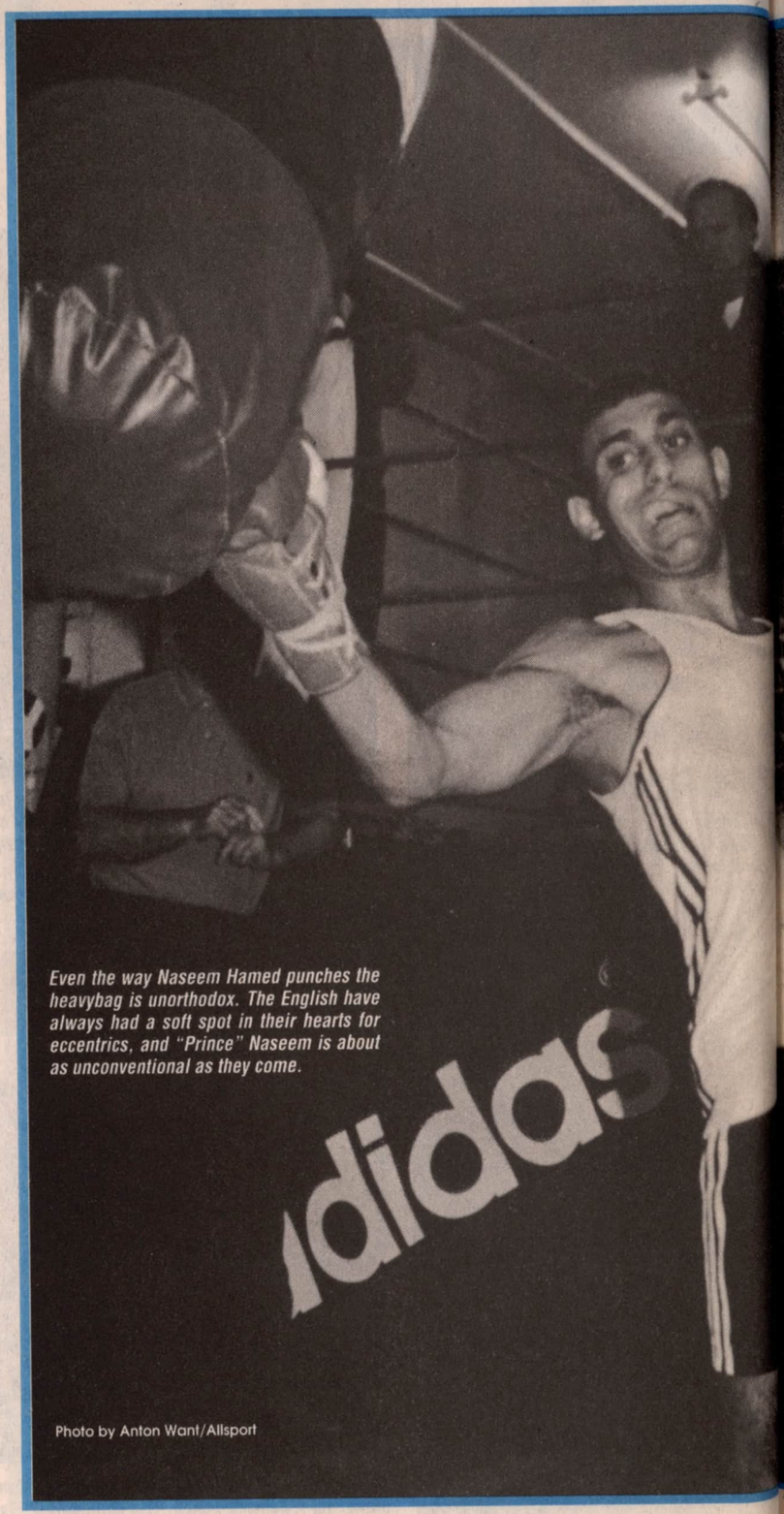
THE FIGHT GAME'S 10 BIGGEST CHARACTERS

By William Dettloff

Some call them lunatics. Freaks. Embarrassments to the game. Owners, managers, and anyone else who live to profit from their glow call them meal tickets. Guaranteed revenue. The media can't get enough of them, and there are as many fans for them as against. Who are they? They are the sporting world's outrageous misfits, those athletes and other benefactors who, for whatever reason, feel compelled to insult, outrage, offend, provoke, and, above all else, entertain. Call them the Howard Sterns of the athletic arena. To them, winning is almost secondary.

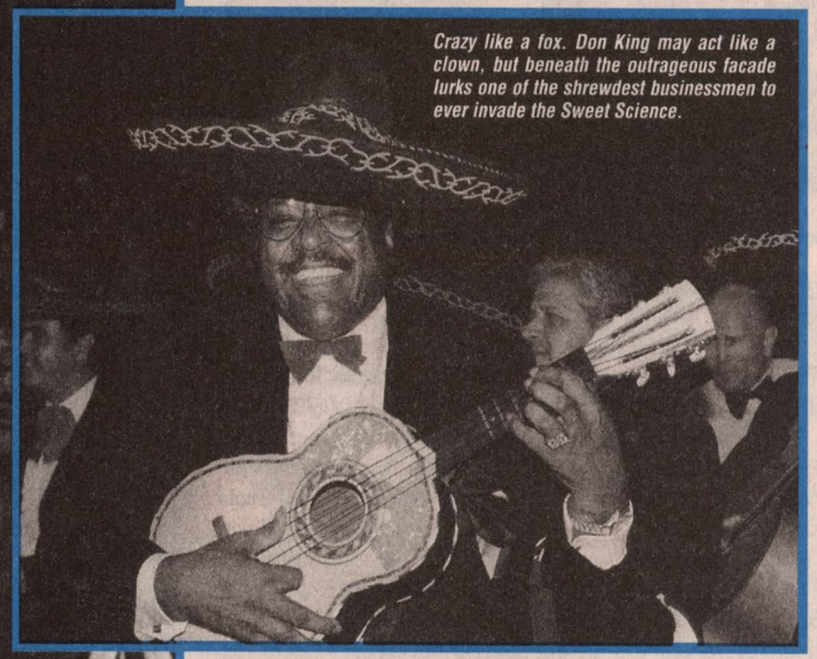
Every sport has them. In the NBA, it's the tattooed, neon-haired Dennis Rodman, who gets as much ink for his off-the-court escapades as he does for his rebounding prowess. In football, it's Deion Sanders, whose wardrobe and antics generate more interest than his coverage play or kickoff returns. Baseball has a long history of idiotic behavior by a cast of characters that ranges from Al "The Mad Hungarian" Hrabowski to Mark "The Bird" Fidrych. Even tennis, long the sport of the affluent and stiff-lipped, had to abide a ranting, often crazed John McEnroe.

Boxing has never had a shortage of outrageous characters, from the mildly scandalous to the downright ridiculous. From Gypsy Joe Harris to Muhammad Ali, from John L. Sullivan to Jorge Paez, probably no other sport in the world has attracted as many experts in excess as has professional boxing. And, we're happy to report, time has not depleted our supply. How do you like your outrageousness? With disco dancing, back flips, and lots of coffee? We've got you covered. With electrified hair and a seemingly endless stream of lawsuits? How about with 300 pounds of blanched, jiggling flesh crammed into a pair of red, white, and blue boxing trunks? Again, you've come to the right place. In today's entertainment-driven boxing world, the outlandish have flourished, even excelled. Here are the 10 best at being outrageous.



Even the way Naseem Hamed punches the heavybag is unorthodox. The English have always had a soft spot in their hearts for eccentrics, and "Prince" Naseem is about as unconventional as they come.

Photo by Anton Want/Allsport



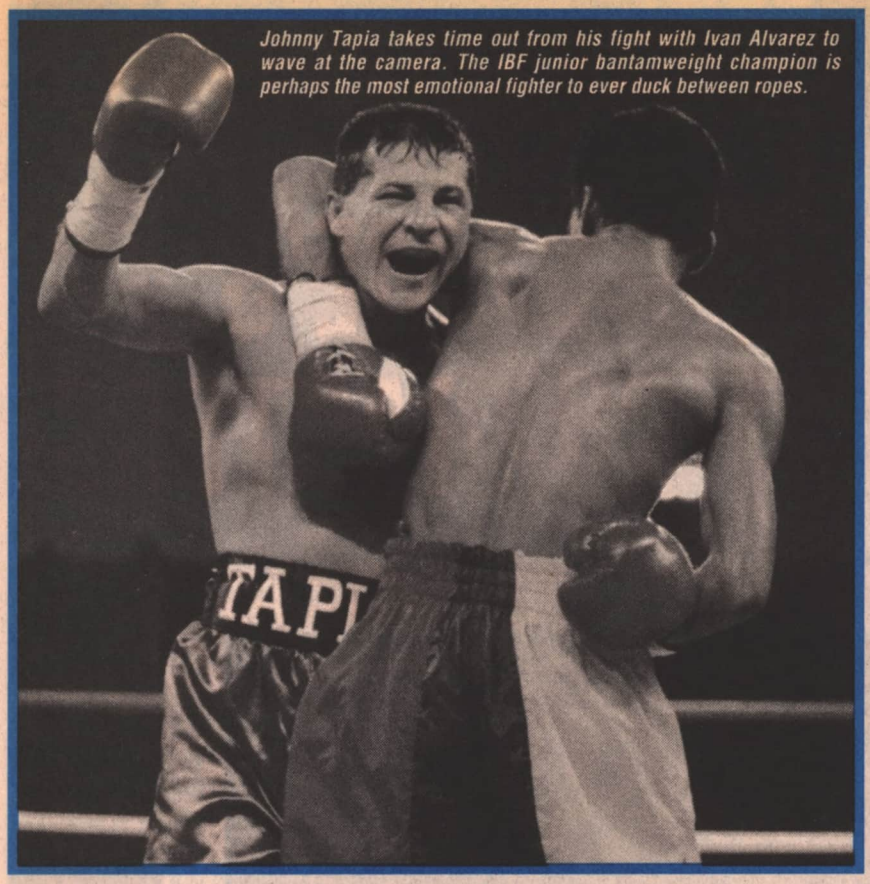
Crazy like a fox. Don King may act like a clown, but beneath the outrageous facade lurks one of the shrewdest businessmen to ever invade the Sweet Science.

1. Naseem Hamed

Why Hamed? Take your pick. There's lots to choose from. Maybe it's the walk to the ring. His entrance in a recent defense of the IBF featherweight title against Juan Gerardo Cabrera was typical. "The Prince" appeared on a specially constructed suspended platform, and discoed his way out onto a dance floor flooded with strobe lights and more than a little smoke. After gyrating and dancing around for what seemed like hours—much to the delight of a roaring British throng, who reacted as though the Beatles had just appeared on stage, led by the Queen Liz—he raced his way up to the ring and promptly leaped over the top rope. Not quite outrageous enough for you? Watch Hamed box. If he's ever picked up a book illustrating boxing's basic fundamentals, you wouldn't know it watching him fight. There's not a commandment he does not violate, yet so far he's won each time out, most times convincingly and impressively. Still not convinced he's the most outrageous character in the game? Listen to him talk about how it's his "destiny to become a boxing legend," and you discover a brashness and confidence so immense, so maddening, so unforgivingly cocky, it becomes clear that a young Cassius Clay would have blushed in his presence. Love him or hate him. It doesn't matter to The Prince, just as long as you watch.

2. Don King

What list doesn't King appear on these days? Whether it's a humanitarian award from a civil rights group, an HBO movie about his life, an indictment over alleged tax fraud, or his induction into the boxing



Johnny Tapia takes time out from his fight with Ivan Alvarez to wave at the camera. The IBF junior bantamweight champion is perhaps the most emotional fighter to ever duck between ropes.

Hall of Fame, history's most successful boxing promoter is everywhere. That's no accident. In the '90s, one doesn't garner that much attention without being at least a little outrageous. And for as long as he's been doing business, King has been just that. He's got the entire package: the rap sheet that includes running a numbers operation and a manslaughter conviction; the hair he swears stands straight up through no artificial intervention; the shtick replete with unintelligible, often laughably nonsensical references to Shakespeare and the Bible; the wealth and opulence, the swagger, the incredible chutzpah, the ever-important name recognition that far surpasses any other promoter in the sport's long history, and, until recently at least, an undisputed lock on the world's best fighters. Ask 10 people you pass on the street to name a boxing promoter, and chances are high that if they summon a name at all, it'll be King's. Take away all the outrageous eccentricities that seem to define the man today and ask the question: Could he have made a living in boxing without them? The answer is, probably. Could he be the star he is now? Not a chance.

3. Johnny Tapia

Somewhere down the line, maybe five or 10 years from now, some Hollywood writer will pen a script about Tapia's life. It will include the by-now familiar details of his life. How his father was murdered before the fighter was born; how his mother was raped and murdered when Tapia was eight years old; his addiction to drugs, which netted him a four-year suspension from the sport; and his turbulent relationship with wife/manager Theresa, on whom he was charged with pulling a loaded gun. But that won't be all. Hell, that doesn't even include any of the things he's done in the ring, or, just as importantly, how he's done them. Tapia is one of the most emotional characters you'll find in a game where emotion of any kind is far from desirable. Fighters are taught to be cool under fire. Tapia thrives there. Fighters are taught to be gracious in victory. Tapia taunts his opponents endlessly and celebrates wins by doing backflips. Fighters are taught to fight without emotion. With emotion is the only way he can win. With a tattoo of the Sacred Heart on his chest, the Virgin Mary on his back, and *"Mi Vida Loca"* (My Crazy Life) emblazoned on his trunks, Tapia is the picture of a too hot star destined to burn out too young. No, he's not outlandish or extravagant in the way that Hamed, King, and others are. It's not shtick or an act. With Tapia, the stories, the pain, it's all real. And that is outrageous.

4. Hector Camacho

One need look no further for proof that "Macho" Camacho is still one of the game's most outrageous characters than to consider his first words to the press after his losing effort against Oscar De La Hoya. After suffering a ridiculously one-sided beating and losing by more than two touchdowns on two of the judges' scorecards, Camacho looked HBO analyst Larry Merchant dead in the eye and said—with a straight face—that he wanted a rematch. Just like that. There wasn't a single moment in the bout that could have been called competitive, yet here he was, calling for another try. We should have known. What were we to expect? Humility? From a guy who's been known to show up at weighins buck naked, regardless of any

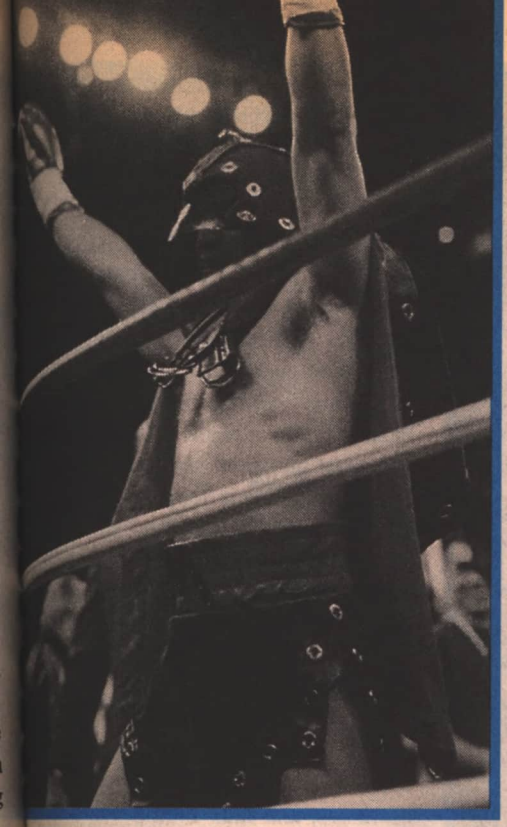
ASSORTED NUTS

In a business where bad behavior often equals big money, there's always room for more bad boys. While not as mischievous as those shown above, the following characters have made their mark in this game better than most.

1. What could be more outrageous than biting off a piece of your opponent's ear? **Mike Tyson's** indiscretion will forever mark him as among boxing's most scandalous villains.

2. If you have about 15 years to spare, hunt down legendary promoter Dan **Elbaum** and pull up a seat. You'll hear stories that'll curl your hair, even if you're balder than George Foreman. He's got a million of 'em.

3. Besides being one of the best fighters on the planet, **Roy Jones** is also one of the game's most flamboyant performers. Don't buy the increasingly staid version you hear on *Boxing After Dark*. The raving extrovert you heard after the Monte



Although he never came close to winning his fight with Oscar De La Hoya, Hector Camacho managed to cause quite a commotion with his ring outfit, complete with a Darth Vader-like visor.

mixed company that might be in attendance? Should we have expected anything else from the clown who once interrupted a press conference to bump and grind in front of the wife of an executive who had just perished in a helicopter crash? They simply don't come any wackier than Camacho. Never have. On his way into the Thomas & Mack Arena on the night of the De La Hoya fight, Camacho's Darth Vaderesque costume—which he also wore into the ring—set off a round of metal detection alarms that nearly spawned a riot. It was a fitting entrance, which matched a similarly fitting exit several hours later.

5. Lou Duva

While it's true that he's slowed down a bit over the last several years, no one can ever accuse Lou Duva of acting his age. The 60-plus trainer seems on most nights the ideal poster boy for your choice of high blood pressure remedies, and is often referred to by industry wise guys—and others when they know he's not within earshot—as a dead-ringer for Fred Flintstone. He's also probably the game's most well-known and recognizable trainer. With his rambling, shambling appearance, hyperactive temper, and fierce dedication to his fighters, there is no mistaking Capt. Lou for anyone else when he's in town. As far as trainers go, can you think of another who's provided as many memorable moments? How about his tirade following Richard Steele's stoppage of the 1990 Chavez-Taylor fight? Or his more recent tantrum at the conclusion of Darroll Wilson-Courage Tshabalala? How many trainers can you name who have taken a punch for their fighter? Duva did, when Roger Mayweather harpooned him with a right after a ruckus broke out at the end of Mayweather's title defense against Vinny Pazienza, who Duva then trained. There have been, over the years, many trainers better than Duva at teaching the science of boxing. But we'll bet you can't name one who's been as much fun to have around.

Griffin blowout is the real Roy.

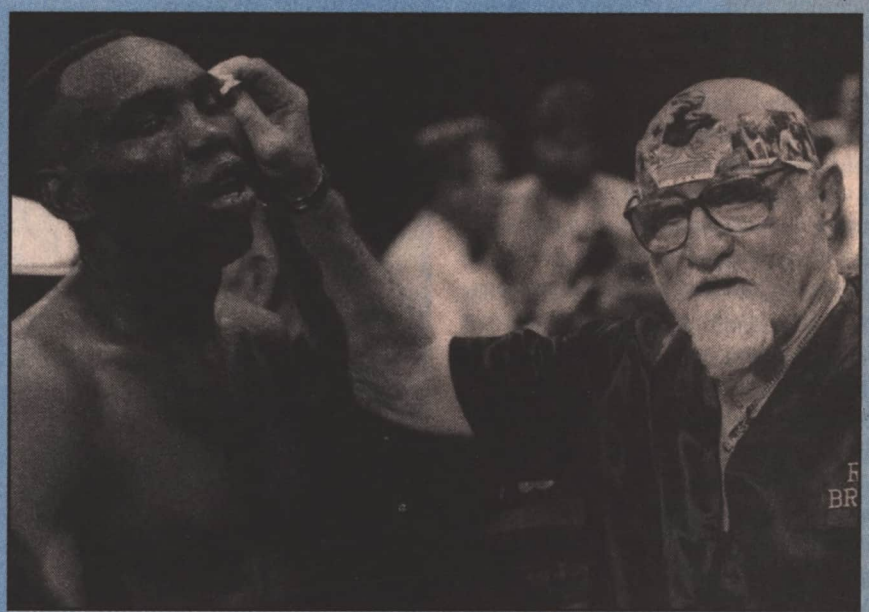
4. There's got to be an award somewhere out there a cutman who tapes fighters' pictures and names on his head for no apparent reason. **Chuck Bodak**, luckily, is one of a kind.

5. How's this for a paradox? Junior lightweight comer **Angel Manfredy** is adorned with all manner of devilish ink on his torso, not to mention red trunks and high, red socks. "El Diablo." Satan worshiper, right? Wrong. Talks about God. Constantly.

6. Anyone who gets on national television, looks into the camera and tells Don King to kiss his ass—as **James Toney** did after a victory several years back—automatically qualifies for this and any other list we can think of.

7. What's so outrageous about veteran referee **Frank Capuccino**? If you have to ask, you've never listened to him, up close, working a fight. Do it some time. You won't be sorry.

8. You have to give credit where credit is due. Could anyone but **Butch Lewis** get away with wearing a tuxedo with no shirt?

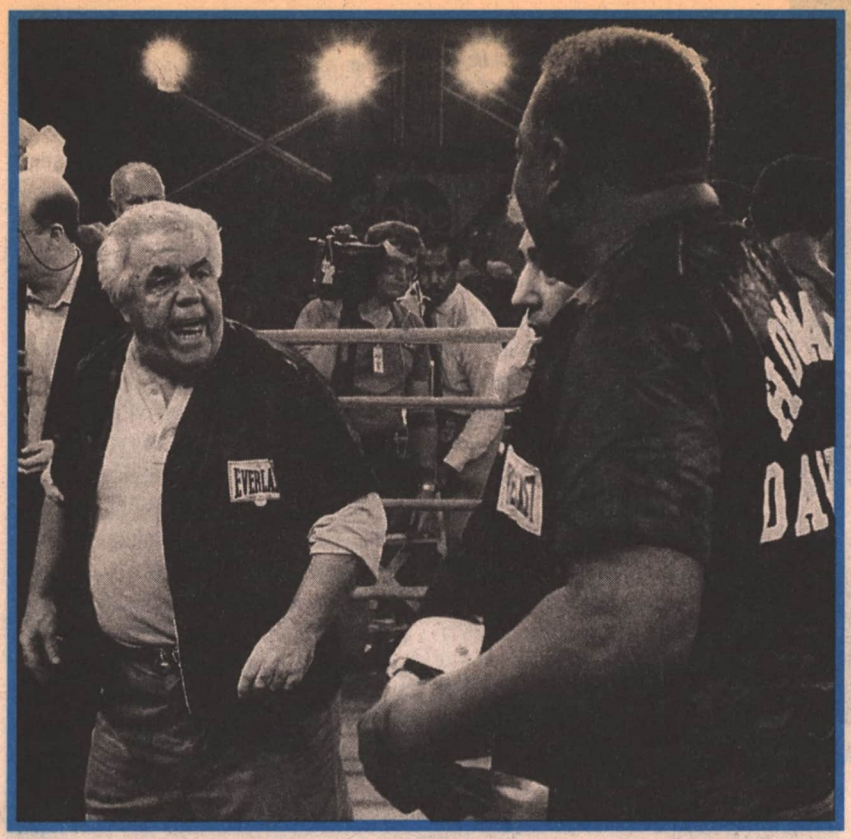


Bodak works on David Kamau.

9. Lord knows what **Bruce "The Mouse" Strauss** is up to these days. He says he's managing some guys and his days of fighting every night under assumed names is over. *Hmmm.*

10. Could anyone be *less* outrageous that the straight-laced, court judge, **Mills Lane**? No way. Straight as an arrow. And that's the point. He's so painfully conservative that it's downright unusual. And more than a little entertaining.

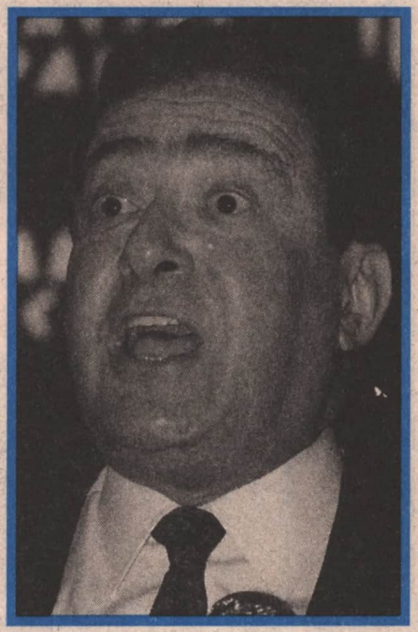
—WD



Lou Duva in the midst of one of his patented postfight temper tantrums. It seemed that Capt. Lou was a mite miffed when Meldrick Taylor only got a draw in his 1986 bout with Howard Davis.

6. Bob Arum

Okay, so he doesn't have spiked hair, and no one is writing books about him or naming streets after him. He doesn't collect lawsuits like some collect rare stamps or coins, and, as far as we know, he is not currently under federal investigation for anything. Don't let all that fool you. Despite the fact that he is, as a promoter, often over shadowed by ... what's his name, Arum is one of the game's great characters. Don't think so? How many times now have you heard, read, or quoted the infamous, "Yesterday I was lying, today I'm telling the truth" story? That one line, though perhaps not as clever or commercially pliable as "Only in America," is just as priceless, just as Runyonesque. Want more? Check out tape—audio and video, if possible—of the near-hysterical rant Arum launched into after his fighter, Oscar De La Hoya, was besieged by the press following his controversial decision over Pernell Whitaker. If you heard it all and at the end had no idea what the hell Arum was talking about but felt completely entertained anyway, join the club. Finally, you had to marvel at Arum's



Another excitable sort is Bob Arum, who can match damn near anybody when it comes to throwing a fit. He's not as flamboyant as arch-rival King, but just as volatile.

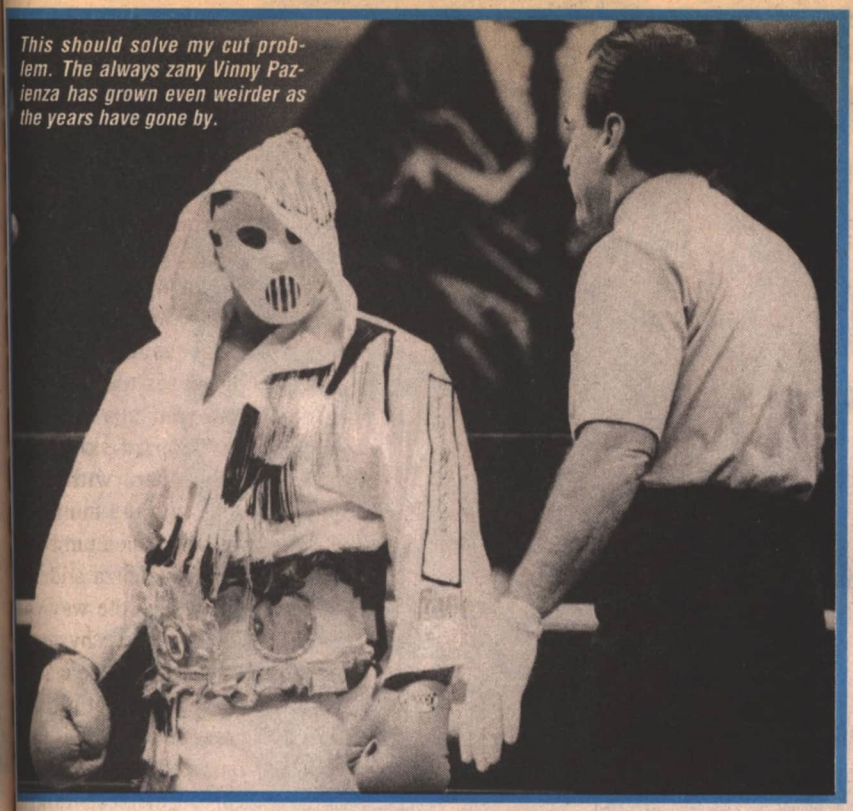
"Women don't belong in boxing!" diatribe after a female ringside physician called off the Vince Phillips-Micky Ward bout in August. That Arum was in front of a national television audience when he alienated an entire gender was of little regard. What did he care? What were they going to do, sue him?

7. Vinny Pazienza

Most of the characters on this list—the older ones, at least—have mellowed a little with age. As a rule, the older one gets, the less inclination there is toward excess and pomposity, outrageousness. But with Pazienza, the opposite is true. Sure, we remember him from years ago as a cocky lightweight in his leopard-skin trunks knocking out Melvin Paul with a bolo punch, and warring with the mutt, Greg Haugen. What was cocky then turned into something else after Pazienza added all that muscle and jumped all the way up to middleweight. Cocky became hysterical, frantic, almost demonic. After the car accident that broke his neck but not his spirit, Pazienza's aura grew, and so did his use of costumes, and faux Indian war paint as ring garb, and prefight trash-talking. Without a victory over a top fighter in years, he convinced himself—and a surprising number of observers—that he deserved a shot at superstar Roy Jones, and got it. Forget that he was crushed. He lost because he mistimed his prefight coffee blast, he told us, couldn't function right without the caffeine rush. Yeah, right. Then he knocks out up-and-comer Dana Rosenblatt with a right hand your mother could have slipped, and tells us all what idiots we are for not believing in him. No, the purists will never take to Pazienza. And he couldn't care less.

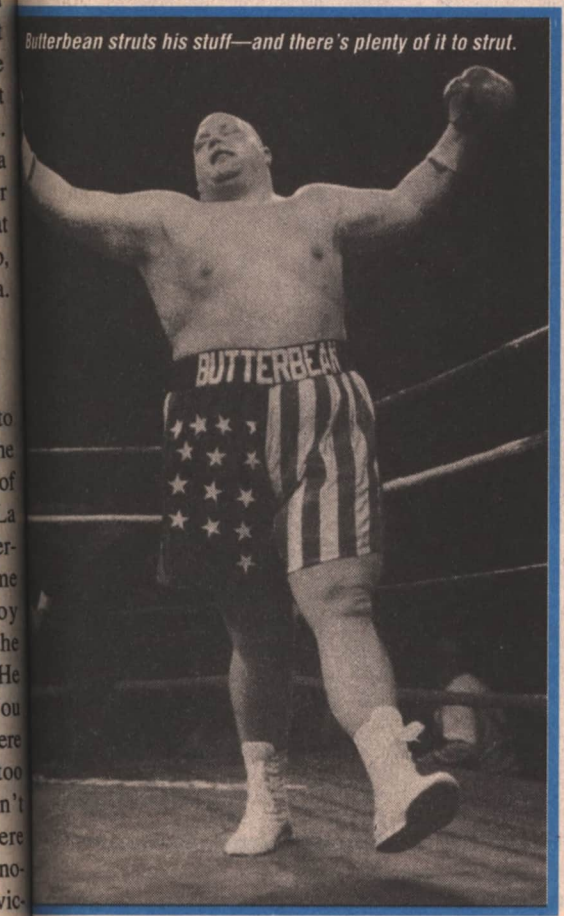
8. Butterbean

Just when you thought it was safe to open your new issue of THE RING, there he is again. You shell out 40 bucks for one of Arum's pay-per-view shams with De La Hoya as the headliner, and on the undercard, there he is, smacking around some poor, clumsy, nearsighted cowboy wannabe. You can't miss him, with the big, bald head and stark white body. He looks like an egg in boxing trunks. You switch over to the *Tonight Show*, and there he is with Jay Leno, taking up way too much space on that couch. You can't escape him. He's boxing's everywhere man. He's Butterbean. It all started innocently enough for the Beanster. Some vic-



This should solve my cut problem. The always zany Vinny Pazienza has grown even weirder as the years have gone by.

ries on the "Tough Man" circuit over an assortment of drunken hillbillies, and he links he can fight, so he turns pro. Not a new story, right? But the Bean sticks with it. Toughs it out. Now he's grown into a legitimate cult hero, and if you want proof, revisit the tape of his ring entrance on the De La Hoya-Camacho undercard. He got by far the loudest reception of the entire card, with the only exception being "The Golden Boy" himself. Why? Who knows? All we know is that he's fun. Fun to listen to, fun to root for, fun to root against, fun to watch. So what that he can't fight too well. Sometimes, fun is enough.



Butterbean struts his stuff—and there's plenty of it to strut.

9. Chris Eubank

Out of sight, out of mind. It's a saying that applies to Eubank, the former WBC super middleweight champion, ever since he retired and moved his base of operations to the Middle East. Just recently he started a low-profile comeback he hopes will lead to a return to the big time. If he never fought again, we'd have enough memories of the fighter to last us a lifetime. And no, they wouldn't be of his two losses to Steve Collins, or of his wars with Nigel Benn or Michael Watson, battles that electrified all of Britain. Nor would they be made of the close battles and smelly decisions that preceded his losses to Collins. No, they would be of ring entrances that were orchestrated as if by the Queen herself, long, elegant journeys befitting an emperor (or, yes, a Prince). They'd be of extended mid-ring bodybuilding poses during the introductions that would have made Arnold Schwarzenegger proud. And they'd be of a boxer so taken with himself in the ring that he'd sometimes go a full round doing literally nothing more than posing in front of his opponent, often with the fight hanging in the balance. And we don't mean posing in the sarcastic sense, the way, say, Michael Moorer often "poses" his way through bouts. We mean posing. Literally. "Why bother to exert myself," he seemed to be saying, "when I can win merely by the virtue of my glorious physique?" Of course, he could fight, too, when he wanted to. That was the shame of it all. Sometimes, fun *isn't* enough.

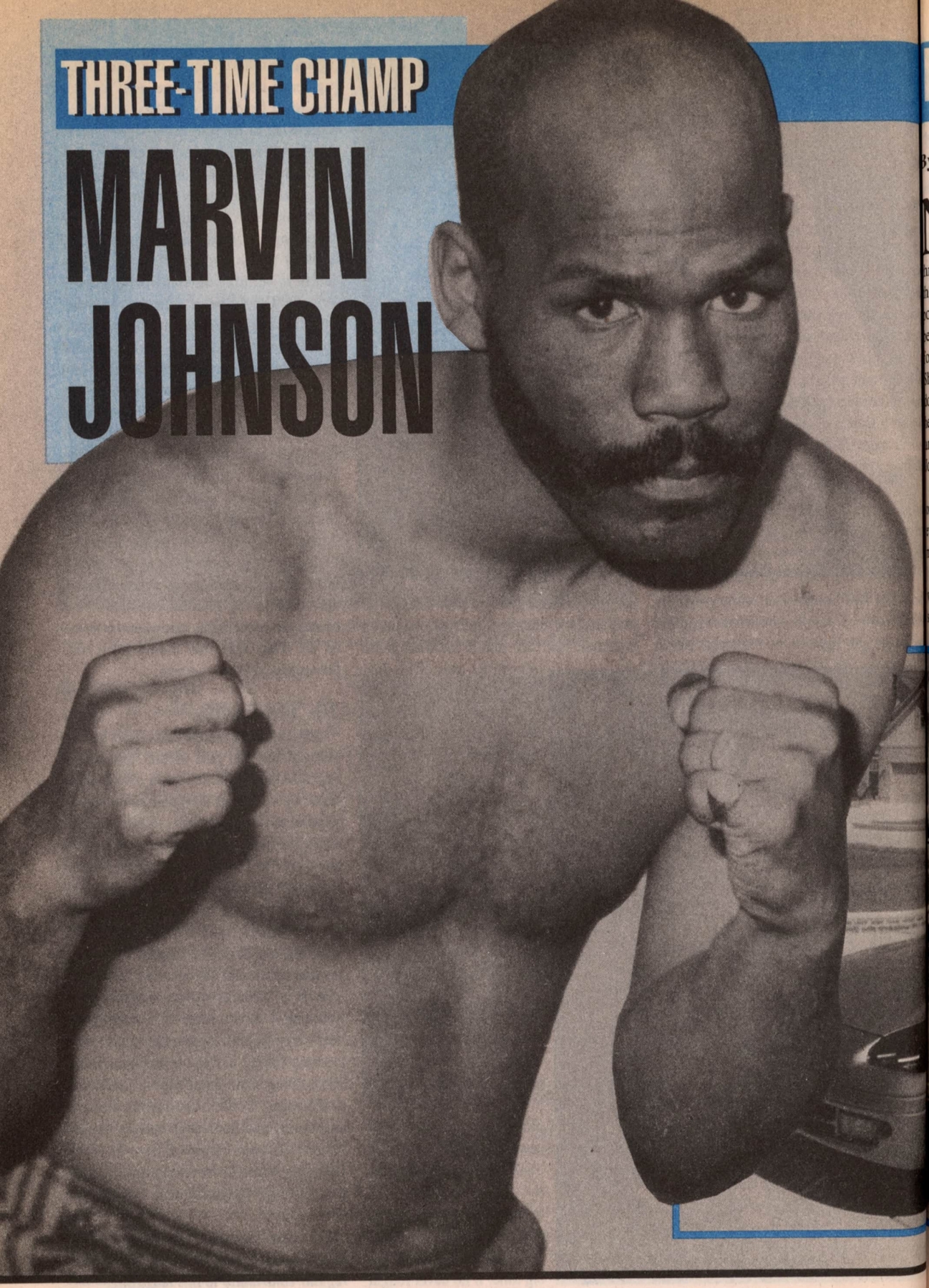
10. Tex Cobb

All right, we know that Cobb hasn't been an integral part of the fight game since the mid-'80s. It's been a long time since we've gotten a regular sampling of some of the best one-liners to ever grace a boxing writer's type writer. (Of which there are far too many to recount here. Perhaps Cobb will hit the comedy club circuit some day, ala Jake LaMotta, and we will all benefit from his wisdom. Until then, dig out those old mags.) Suffice to say that his current day presence, peripheral as it is, remains strong. Whether he's hamming it up at a roast for former opponent Larry Holmes, appearing in a bit part in some campy movie, or cracking jokes while doing some guest commentating on small cards, Cobb's outrageous stories, anecdotes, and demeanor delight us all. Almost 20 years removed from his best fighting days, he remains among the game's most delightful, and outrageous, characters. ■

William Dettloff is a freelance writer based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

THREE-TIME CHAMP

MARVIN JOHNSON



Plenty Of Glory, Not Enough Gold

By Pete Ehrmann

Now shorn of the crescent of head hair and the muttonchop sideburns that were his trademark when he was the three-time light heavyweight champion of the world, and packing about 25 more pounds than he did then, Marvin Johnson bears more than a passing resemblance to former heavyweight contender Earnie Shavers. But unlike Shavers, who trundled down the comeback trail in his 50s because, he said, God told him to, it's his strong faith and desire to serve God that are taking Johnson further away from boxing than ever.

A decade removed from his last championship reign, the 43-year-old Johnson isn't even comfortable reviewing the career that made him one of his era's top 175-pounders.

"I was good, one of the best light heavyweights in my time. But I wasn't the best," said the still fit-looking Indianapolis man. "I can sit here and tell you, I guess from a macho standpoint, that I was the best, and there are people who will witness that. But to really know who the best was, you have to look at the record. It will show you that light heavyweights today aren't quality fighters like when I was fighting. But it will also show you that Marvin Johnson's record wasn't as good as Michael Spinks', or [Matthew] Saad Muhammad's, unfortunately."

In his 14-year pro career, Johnson beat a lot of terrific boxers. He knocked out Bill "Dynamite" Douglas (Buster's father, and a feared fighter in his day) and contender Eddie Davis, and decisioned future champion Prince Charles Williams. And anyone who saw it will never forget the Johnson left hook that drove Victor Galindez down and broke his jaw in their 1979 title fight.

But in two of the most torrid wars waged in the '70s, Johnson was stopped by Saad Muhammad. He also lost to Eddie Mustafa Muhammad and Leslie Stewart in title bouts.

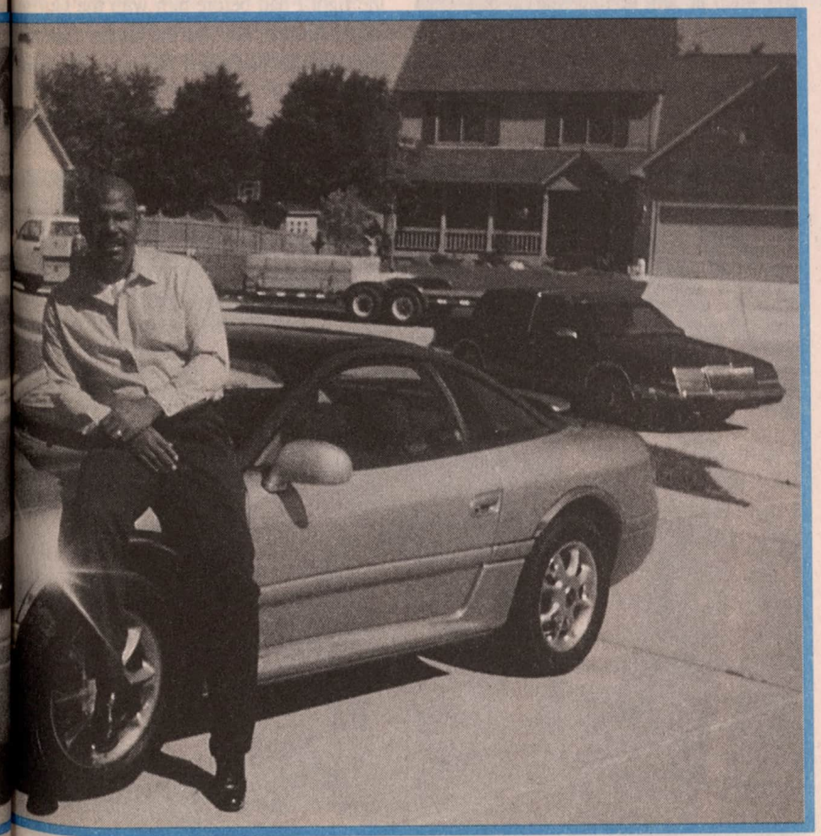
"That's one of the reasons I don't like watching my fights," said Johnson. "The fact is—and we have to face reality—that they won. Those guys proved to be victorious over me. That's what went down in history. When they say, 'Don't cry over spilled milk,' or 'That's water under the bridge,' 'Look ahead and not behind,'—that's what I try to do. Things didn't go quite as well as I hoped, so I put that behind me. I can't allow my mind to feed on negative things that happened if I'm ever going to get ahead. If I did that, my whole life would just become a dream, and I'm no longer productive."

But there is another reason Johnson prefers not to dwell on his days as one of the ring's most exciting performers.

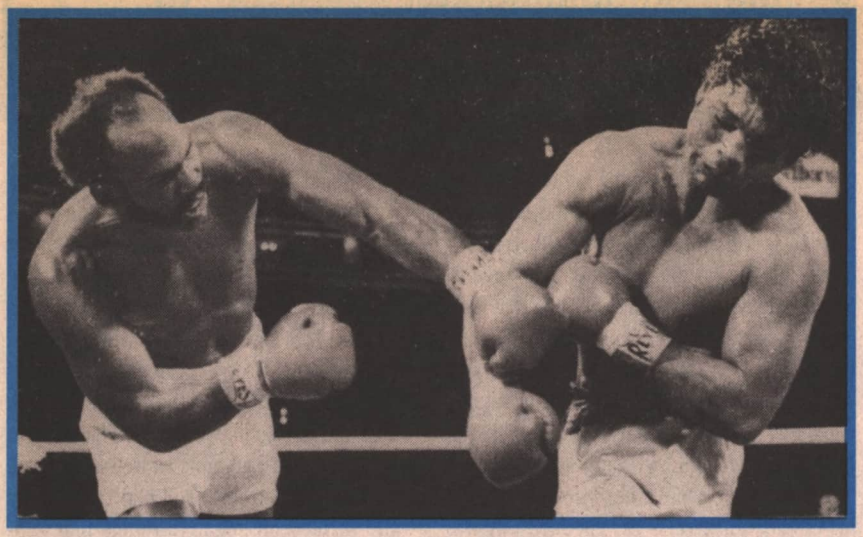
"When I think of my boxing career, I'm not very happy about it," he said. "It is truly a disappointment. I made a lot of grave sacrifices for my boxing. I sacrificed everything. Nothing came before boxing. And to me, the payoff that I received for my sacrifices just didn't balance out. I became the three-time champion of the world, the first ever in the light heavyweight division. If I tell somebody I don't like talking about my boxing career and don't feel I got out of boxing what I should have gotten out of it, they will say, 'Man, what are you talking about? Three-time champion is something to be proud of. Don't you realize there are people who'll never win a world championship?'

"What they don't understand is that my personal need for becoming world champion was not satisfied. My personal goal was never reached, and that was not just to become a world champion, but to become financially independent, and I never made it."

Johnson is far from destitute. He, his wife, and their four children live what he calls a "high middle-class" existence in the city where he was born and has lived his whole life. He does television commercials for the East Gate Chrysler-Plymouth dealership, and lives in a home whose value he estimates at over $200,000. That's a long way from his impoverished childhood, but the memories of that impoverishment are still so stark and vivid that against them, anything



Johnson as he appeared in his fighting prime as the three-time light heavyweight champion and Johnson today (above), outside his home in Indianapolis, where he works as a prison guard.



Perhaps Johnson's greatest victory was his 11th-round knockout of Argentine legend Victor Galindez in 1979 to capture the WBA 175-pound title. The left hook that kayoed Galindez also broke his jaw.

less than his goal of a $1-million purse seems almost like failure.

"All of my life, we were taken care of by the county trustee," said Johnson, one of nine children, referring to a welfare system in place during his boyhood. "I can remember my mother getting food vouchers. She was allowed to buy so much food with them, but she couldn't buy anything that wasn't edible. I would go with her to the store, and we'd take all the edible things and separate them from the others."

Even after Johnson won his first world title in 1978, he would go to the store where sometimes, "I'd find myself separating edible and non-edible things on the counter before I realized I didn't have to."

Johnson recalls the day the Board of Health condemned the house his family lived in. He remembers, too, how at the elementary school he and his siblings attended, the leftovers from the school lunches would be gathered and sent home with them.

"Because of the way I was raised, I look back on my boxing career and I'm not satisfied," he said. "I wanted to always get megabucks to never go back to that lifestyle again. I'm proud of what God has brought me from and taken me to, but I'm not satisfied because I didn't get the final reward I'd hoped I'd get."

Surprisingly enough, it was not poverty per se that spurred him into the ring, but rather his pride. As a boy, Johnson recalls that kids chased him home, and his brother, Hank, six years older and already a rising amateur ring star in Indianapolis, called him a sissy.

"That word really touched me," said Marvin. "I was really sensitive about that word, and I wanted to prove to him that I wasn't a sissy."

So he started putting on the gloves with Hank, "and I would really fight hard and try to hit him with a hard punch."

Hank got drafted into the Army at age 18, and when he left, he told Marvin that when he returned home, he wanted to see how much he'd learned about boxing. A cousin took Marvin to St. Rita's gym, and that's where he met Champ Chaney.

"He was gonna teach me the way he was taught," said Marvin of the man who became his coach and mentor. "He was gonna make me champion."

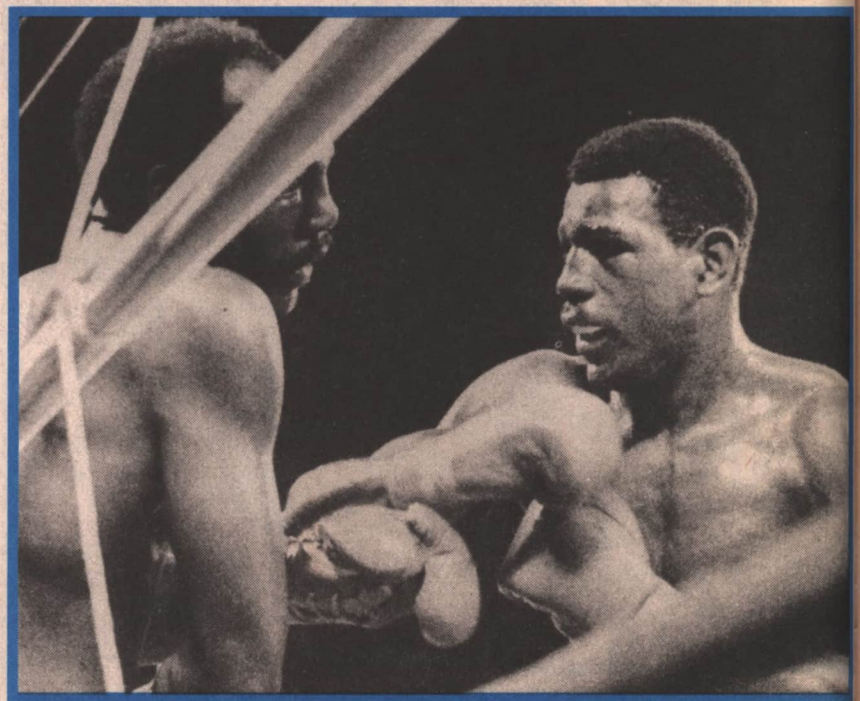
But at the time, Johnson himself had a simpler goal in mind. "My objective was, when my brother came home, to show him I'd improved and how much I'd become a man. I wasn't a crybaby, I wasn't a sissy. I was a man."

By 1972, he was also a champion, along with his brother. Marvin and Hank both won National Golden Gloves titles that year, Marvin as a light heavyweight and Hank at 160 pounds. Both advanced to the U.S. Olympic Trials, where Hank went down in the preliminary rounds. "Go ahead on," he told Marvin, "you don't need me. Win it for both of us."

Marvin came close at the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. He ended up with a bronze medal, losing in the semifinals to eventual 165-pound gold medalist Vyacheslav Lemechev.

"I always say to this day that I didn't lose because of the Russian [whom Johnson had beaten the year before], but I lost because of the fight I had before him with the Cuban," said Johnson. "He was the fighter that wore me down so bad that I felt it in the semifinal."

In fact, said Johnson, the Cuban "hit me



The two torrid wars that Johnson waged with Matthew Saad Muhammad are among the most brutal in history. Muhammad won the WBC title with an eighth-round TKO of Johnson in April 1979.

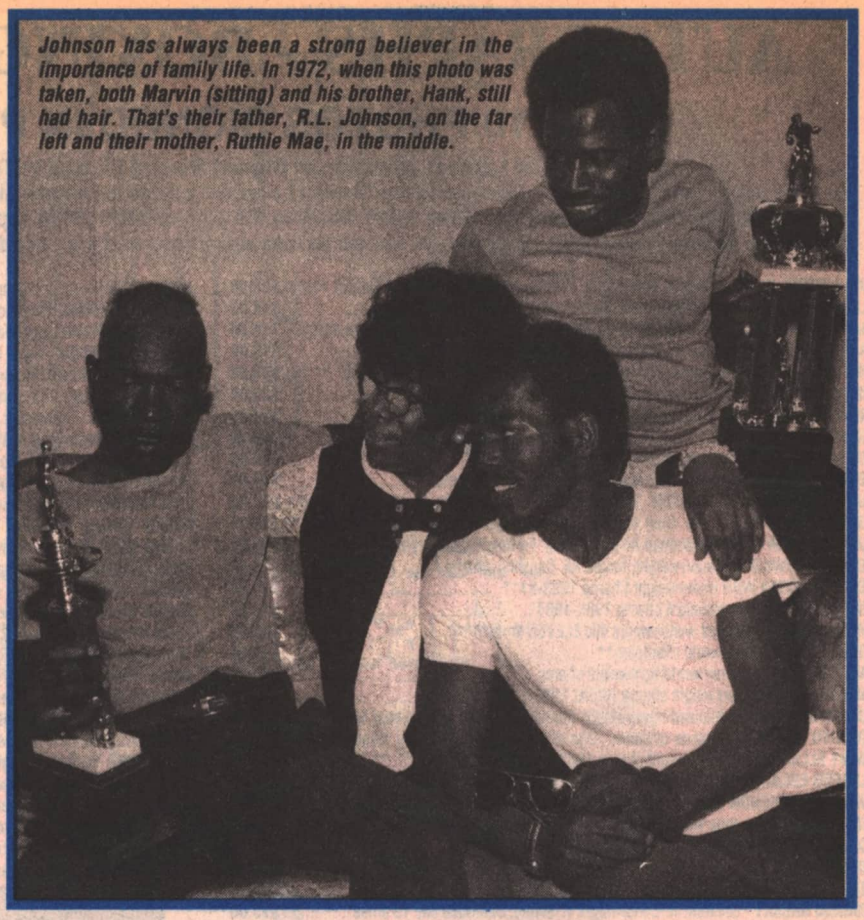
with a punch in the first round that knocked me down and gave me amnesia to the point that I don't even remember getting up. I cannot even right now, today, tell you what happened in the second and third rounds of that fight."

Johnson turned pro on May 23, 1973, knocking out Sylvester Wilder in two rounds. A local businessman paid Johnson $300 a week to train and fight, and for the next 4½ years, he didn't lose—until Saad Muhammad (then Matt Franklin)—stopped him in a savage, 12-round rumble for the NABF light heavyweight title.

"He was a terrific action fighter," said Philadelphia promoter J Russell Peltz, who put on many of Johnson's biggest bouts. "Marvin never stopped fighting from the first round until the last."

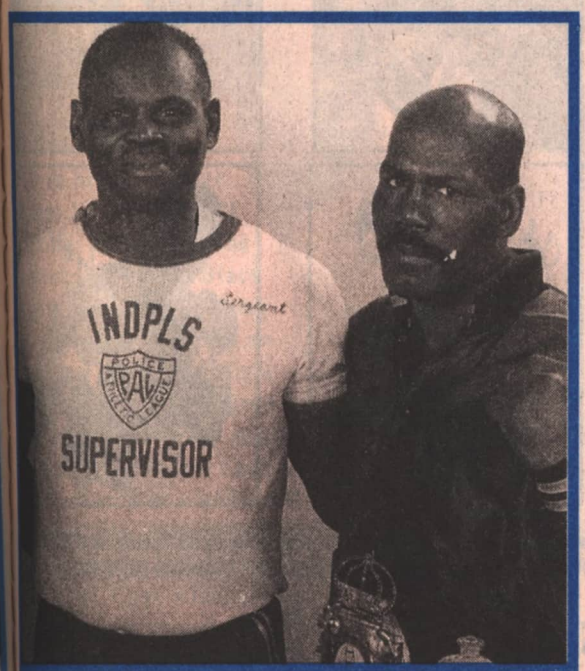
Peltz, whose cards have made the Blue Horizon in the City of Brotherly Love one of the world's best-known boxing temples, recalled the Johnson era as "probably the best ever for light heavyweights. You had Marvin, Saad Muhammad, Michael Spinks, Eddie Mustafa, Victor Galindez, Dwight Braxton, Yaqui Lopez, Jesse Burnett ... You could go one-to-10 [in the rankings] then, and they'd all beat anything out there today. There was a quality guy in every slot, and Marvin did it as well as any of them."

Eddie Mustafa Muhammad praised his 1972 Olympic Trials roommate as a "great guy, great fighter, great individual," and said his victory over Johnson for the WBA title in 11 rounds was far from a breeze.



Johnson has always been a strong believer in the importance of family life. In 1972, when this photo was taken, both Marvin (sitting) and his brother, Hank, still had hair. That's their father, R.L. Johnson, on the far left and their mother, Ruthie Mae, in the middle.

"When you fight Marvin Johnson, I would advise you to bring your lunch," said Mustafa, now a trainer in Las Vegas. "Because you're not just going to take him out with one punch. You're going to work for it. Going into our fight, I knew he wasn't just going to give [the title] to me. He was a terrific puncher, and a very busy person in the ring."



Trainer Champ Chaney took Johnson from the amateur ranks to the world championship. The pair stayed together throughout Johnson's 14-year pro career, which ended in 1987.

But for all his success inside the pro ring and the accolades that came with them, Johnson felt something was missing, along with the million-dollar purse for which he hungered.

"When I won the National Golden Gloves, man, that's all I wanted to talk about," he recalled. "That was the greatest thing that ever happened in the world. I had proved I was the best fighter. At that time, boxing was what thrilled me. Knocking this man down, watching him squirm, proving myself the master of this other man—that was the thrill.

"In the amateurs, I'd rather fight than eat. There was a pride, a love for boxing, for being victorious. But when I got into professional boxing, after fighting a few fights, I lost that thrill. By the time I fought for a world championship, it just wasn't there for me. I lost all that. I think that pretty much happens with most fighters. I think a boxer loses something that is really dear to him, and he doesn't lose it by choice, making that transition from fun to business."

Even when they raised his hand after he knocked out Mate Parlov to win the WBC belt on December 2, 1978, "my first thought was *My God, my financial worries are over!* There was really nothing else that mattered. I wanted to be the best fighter in the world, but that had very little meaning. It was nice, I liked it, but I guess, to be honest, I never have asked myself how it felt to be the best

(Continued on page 59)

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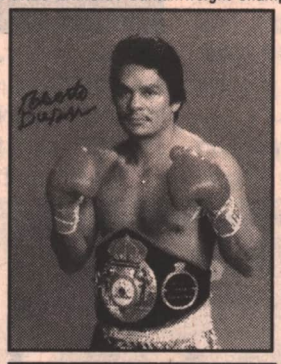
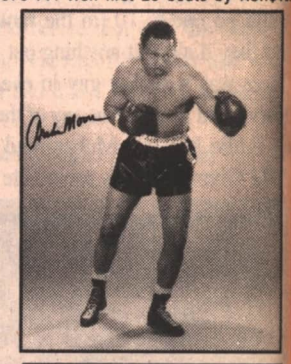
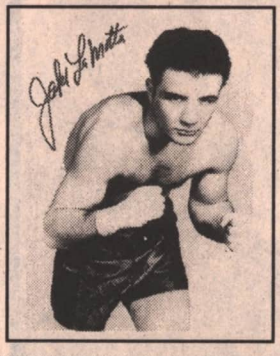
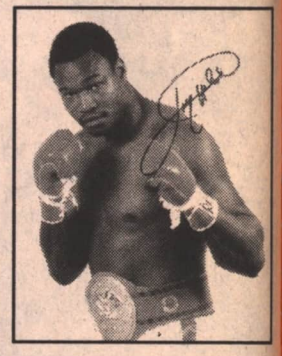
ALFONZO ZAMORA Bantamweight champ 1975-77. Won first 29 bouts by KO..**$18.**









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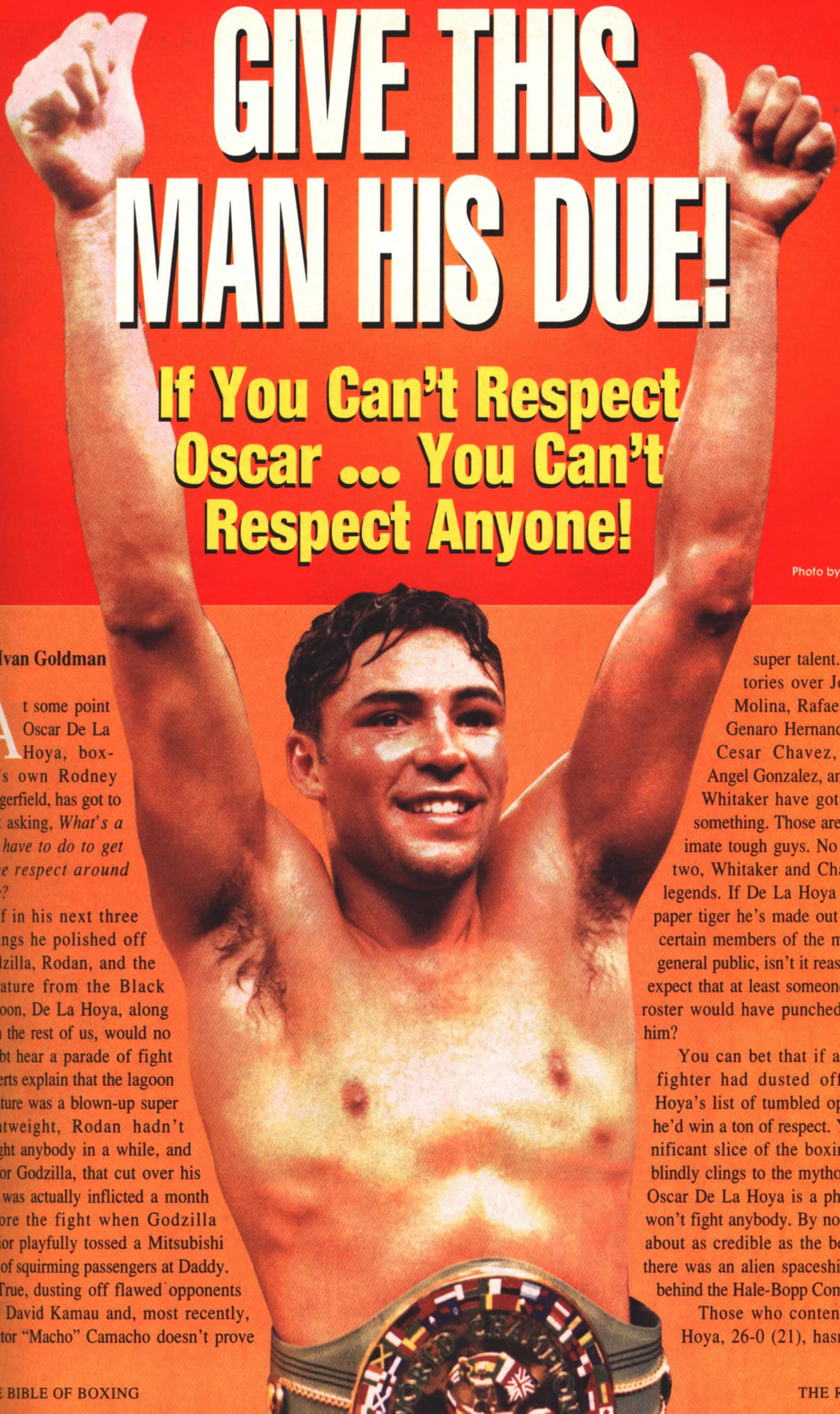
GIVE THIS MAN HIS DUE!

If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone!

Photo by Chris Farina



By Ivan Goldman

At some point Oscar De La Hoya, boxing's own Rodney Dangerfield, has got to start asking, *What's a guy have to do to get some respect around here?*

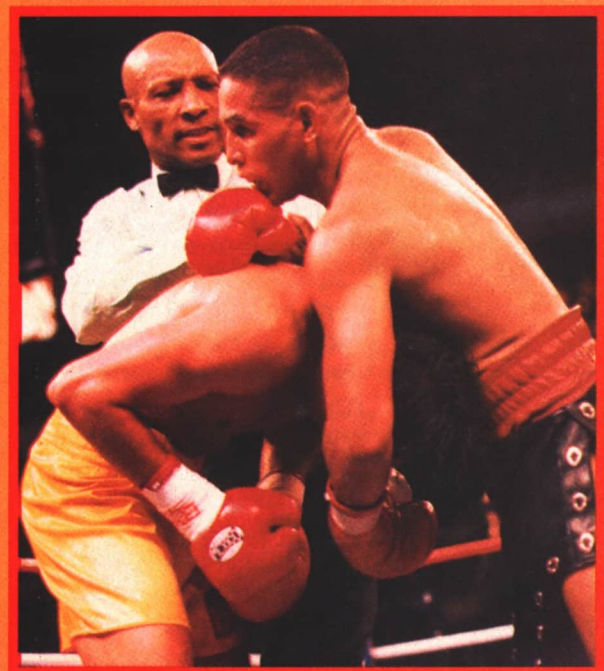
If in his next three outings he polished off Godzilla, Rodan, and the Creature from the Black Lagoon, De La Hoya, along with the rest of us, would no doubt hear a parade of fight experts explain that the lagoon creature was a blown-up super lightweight, Rodan hadn't fought anybody in a while, and as for Godzilla, that cut over his eye was actually inflicted a month before the fight when Godzilla Junior playfully tossed a Mitsubishi full of squirming passengers at Daddy.

True, dusting off flawed opponents like David Kamau and, most recently, Hector "Macho" Camacho doesn't prove super talent. But victories over John-John Molina, Rafael Ruelas, Genaro Hernandez, Julio Cesar Chavez, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, and Pernell Whitaker have got to mean something. Those are all legitimate tough guys. No less than two, Whitaker and Chavez, are legends. If De La Hoya were the paper tiger he's made out to be by certain members of the media and general public, isn't it reasonable to expect that at least someone off that roster would have punched through him?

You can bet that if any other fighter had dusted off De La Hoya's list of tumbled opponents, he'd win a ton of respect. Yet a significant slice of the boxing world blindly clings to the mythology that Oscar De La Hoya is a phony who won't fight anybody. By now, this is about as credible as the belief that there was an alien spaceship hidden behind the Hale-Bopp Comet.

Those who contend De La Hoya, 26-0 (21), hasn't faced

The intense look on De La Hoya's face tells how much he wanted to knock out Camacho, but "The Macho Man's" ceaseless holding allowed him to last the distance. "The Golden Boy" did, however, have the satisfaction of scoring a ninth-round knockdown en route to a unanimous 12-round decision.



real competition are the same people who said he'd have to fight Ruelas, Chavez, and Gonzalez to prove himself. After he beat them all, the disbelievers raised the bar again.

At the same time, it must be admitted that the critics' weird mantra of disrespect for De La Hoya is explained by four facts about him, which, at least on the surface, do look terribly incriminating:

1. No tattoos. 2. He plays golf. 3. He has his own web site. 4. When you look at him from a certain angle, he sort of resembles Tom Cruise.

But De La Hoya deserves at least a few points for not having his navel pierced. Besides which, maybe it's time his critics paid a little more attention to what he has

accomplished inside the ropes, where he's long since proved himself as a genuinely gifted fighter—the kind that comes around maybe once every 10 years, if we're lucky.

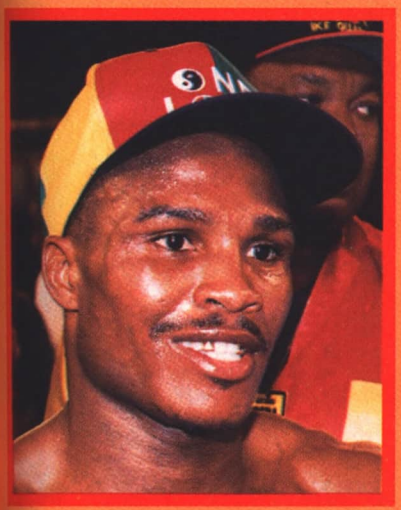
As a teenage amateur, a confident De La Hoya used to travel the Southern California gym circuit with his trainer Robert Alcazar and seek out worthy sparring tests. In one such session, Chavez put him on the seat of his trunks. But De La Hoya, who learned from the encounter, was undeterred. The soft-spoken "Golden Boy" has a long history of stunning ferocity and genuine toughness. He has been butted, tackled, elbowed, threatened, wrestled with, and sometimes even hit with clean shots. But he stays in there and prevails with a mighty punch.

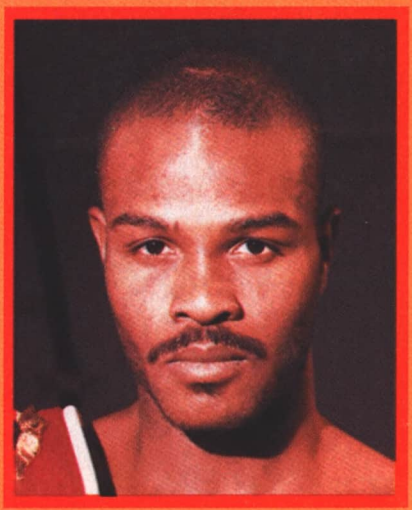
Photo by Chris Farina

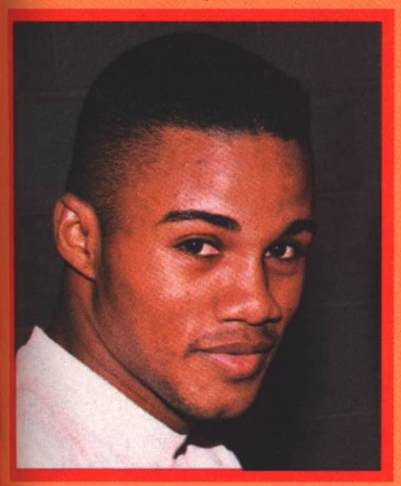
Although never in the slightest danger of losing, De La Hoya did have a minor swelling around his left eye after the Camacho fight. Despite his pretty face, De La Hoya is a genuine tough guy.

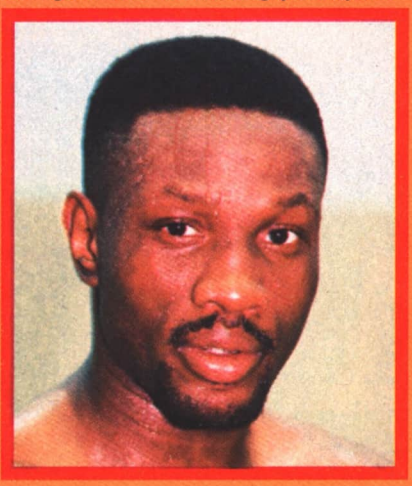
"When Oscar hits them, they don't just feel it," said boxing publicist John Beyrooty, "they remember it."

Wait a minute, you say. You're trying to prove De La Hoya is an outstanding fighter, and for evidence you have to dredge up a publicist? Good point. Except the real evidence is the string of substantial foes De La Hoya has already beaten up. Besides which, Beyrooty works for Forum Boxing and is not affiliated with De La Hoya, who is promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank.









Photos by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport & Chris Farina

A demanding lineup: (clockwise from above left) Ike Quartey, Terry Norris, Pernell Whitaker, and Felix Trinidad. Bob Arum promises that De La Hoya will fight at least two of these guys next year.

Beyrooty gets his two cents in here because he is one of the most savvy guys in boxing. Yet for some reason only exploratory brain surgery could possibly reveal, he also happens to belong to the demented fringe that thinks De La Hoya has yet to prove himself.

"Listen," Beyrooty said, "I like De La Hoya. He's a very popular guy and a very, very good fighter. He's also great for boxing. I just don't think he's unbeatable. I think he has a suspect chin, and I think Arum knows he has a suspect chin. So you don't see him in there with hard-hitting welterweights."

Which sounds almost reasonable until you reflect that De La Hoya just moved up to welter this year, so he hasn't had time to get around to every 147-pounder on the planet. If he were to dodge Felix Trinidad, Ike Quartey, and Terry Norris, that would be more than suspicious. But you can bet he won't. De La Hoya isn't just about making money, he's also about making his mark in the sport. Besides which, if Quartey, Norris, and Trinidad are so tough, why don't they fight each other? (Norris, the WBC junior middleweight champ, is happy to come down to 147 to fight De La Hoya. Because he is now promoted by Arum, he should get his chance this year.)

In the boxing business, particularly in the talent-rich welterweight division, fighters who dodge other fighters are thick as David Tua's neck. But the criticism, as always, focuses on De La Hoya. Nobody can afford to duck him. He is such a draw at

(Continued on page 60)

WBC SUPER BANTAM CHAMP ERIK MORALES

His Parents Are Still Waiting For Him To Get Beat Up!

By Matthew Aguilar

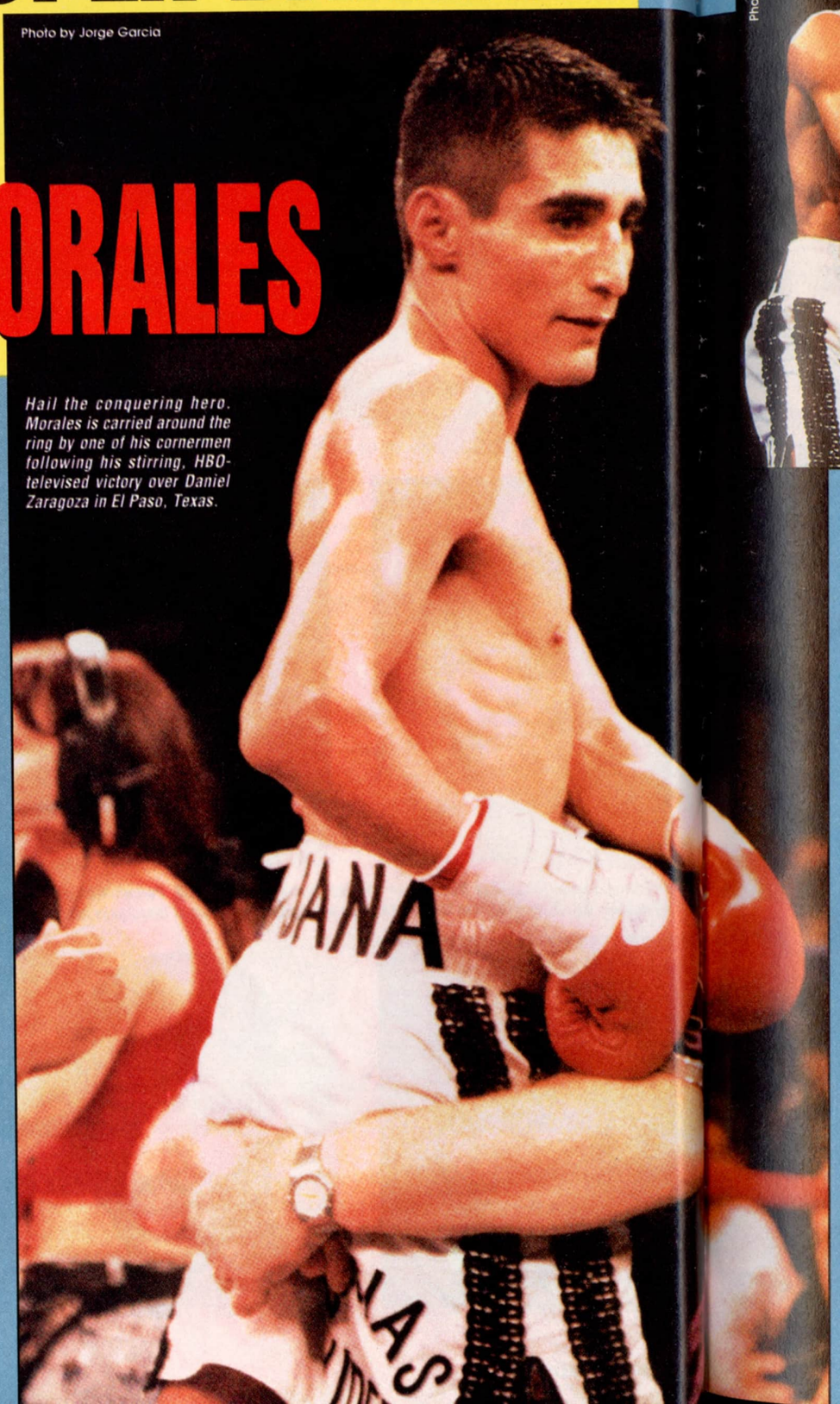
Jose Morales once had dreams of winning a world championship belt, of becoming a big star and earning big star bucks. And then reality landed a left hook to his psyche.

"When I was in boxing, I ran into a lot of dishonesty," Morales said. "I dreamt of becoming a world champion. But the boxing I dreamt of was a lot different than what it was in reality."

So it was no secret that Morales wanted something different for his baby-faced, 16-year-old son, Erik. Papa Morales wanted Erik to go to school, get an educa-

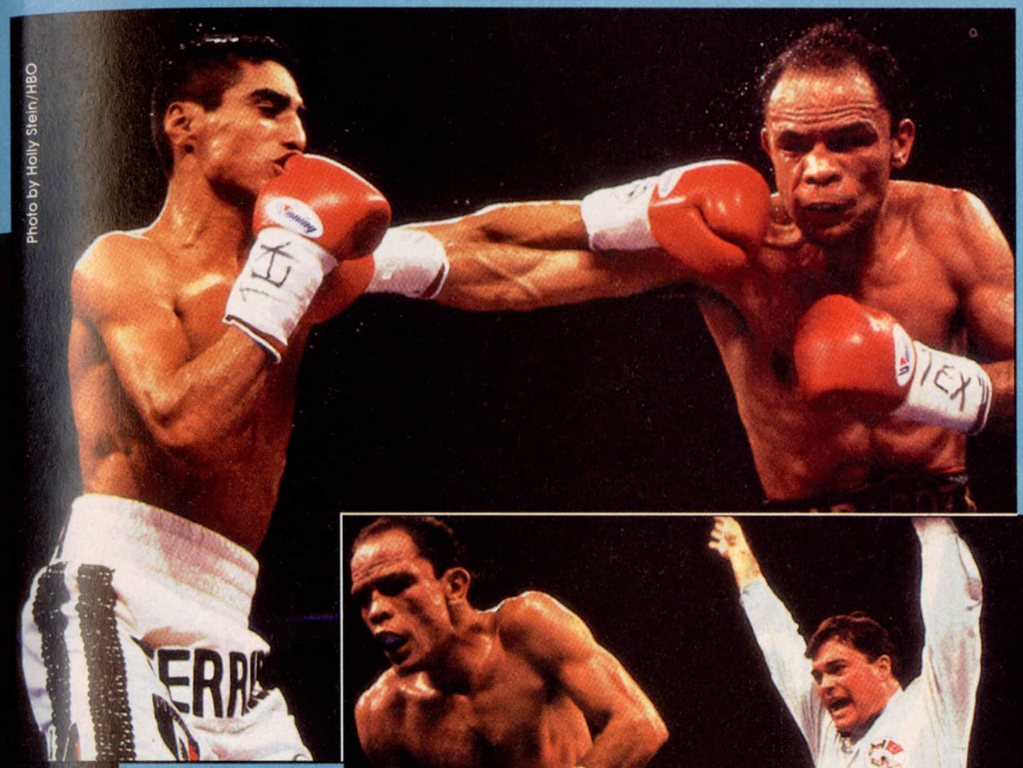
(Continued on page 64)

Photo by Jorge Garcia



Hail the conquering hero. Morales is carried around the ring by one of his cornermen following his stirring, HBO-televised victory over Daniel Zaragoza in El Paso, Texas.

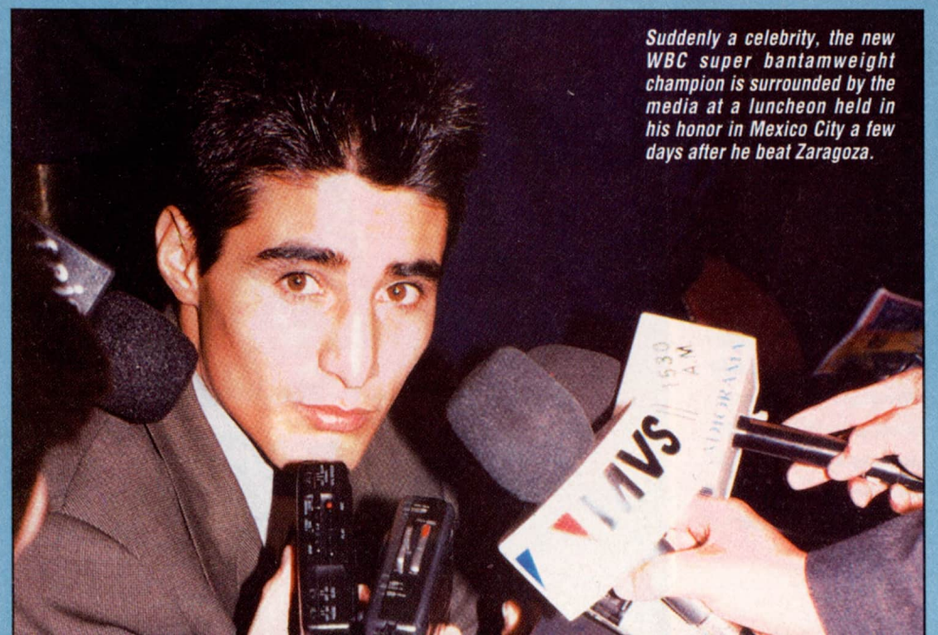
Photo by Holly Stein/HBO



After a slow start, Morales began to find the range for his long-armed punches. He admitted that Zaragoza was more difficult than he anticipated, but in the long run youth was served.

Photo by Holly Stein/HBO

The 39-year-old Zaragoza reached the end of the line in the 11th round when Morales floored him with a body blow. It was a classic changing of the guard, with one Mexican hero replacing another.



Suddenly a celebrity, the new WBC super bantamweight champion is surrounded by the media at a luncheon held in his honor in Mexico City a few days after he beat Zaragoza.

LUCIA RIJKER:

THE WOMAN WHO'S GONNA KICK CHRISTY'S BUTT!

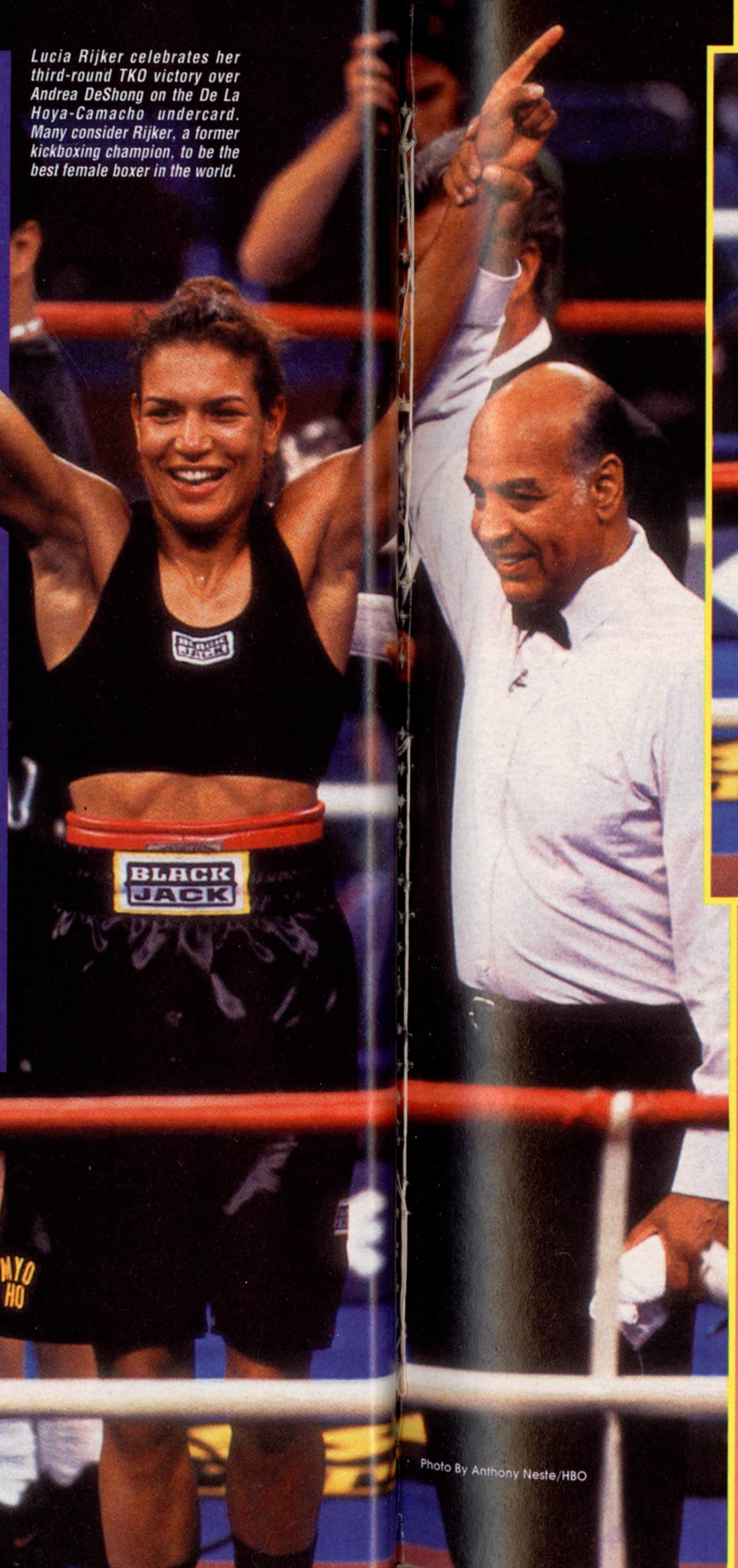


Photo By Anthony Neste/HBO

Lucia Rijker celebrates her third-round TKO victory over Andrea DeShong on the De La Hoya-Camacho undercard. Many consider Rijker, a former kickboxing champion, to be the best female boxer in the world.

Photo By Anthony Neste/HBO

Rijker staggers DeShong with a right to the jaw. DeShong, the only woman to defeat Christy Martin, was soundly beaten in every facet of the game by her aggressive, hard-hitting opponent.

By Tim Graham

One glance at Lucia Rijker, and it quickly becomes evident this woman is a true professional. She is all business. Dressed in a suit and displaying the presence of a princess, it appears Rijker could walk out of a boardroom power meeting as easily as she could step off a magazine cover.

But when this woman goes to work, she strips down to the bare essentials. The stylish hair, the manicured nails, the lipstick, and the eyeliner lose their allure. Rijker's office is between the ropes, where sweat and blood are the makeup of choice. When she climbs into a boxing ring, it is not to hoist a ring card above her head so the guys can holler. Her job is to be the mauler.

"All the years I've been in boxing, this is the first time I ever took a fighter to a beauty salon," said Rijker's manager, Stan Hoffman. "But don't let that fool you. She can fight."

Many consider Rijker, 9-0 (8), the best female boxer in the world, even ahead of pioneer Christy Martin, who has become a household name for her action-packed fights as a Don King undercard attraction. But much will have to occur before these two meet. Rijker is promoted by Top Rank boss Bob Arum, King's chief rival. Still, everyone in the boxing community knows that King and Arum can come together when there is enough interest and money to go around.

"I think it would be a great fight," said Rijker, who stands 5'6" and weighs in anywhere between 129 and 135. "After I get exposure, it would be a great fight to promote, but I don't need her to prove I can box. Of course, her name always comes up. That fight should happen."

Rijker, who has sparred with the likes of Shane Mosley and Gabe and Rafael Ruelas, gained her biggest exposure by fighting the only woman ever to beat Martin, Andrea DeShong, in a prelim to September's Oscar De La Hoya-Hector Camacho fight in Las Vegas. Not only was Rijker's bout attended by more than 13,000 fans at the Thomas & Mack Center, but it was also the opener to TVKO's pay-

Rijker attributes much of her recent success to trainer Freddie Roach. Their strong communication has helped her to reach her potential.

Photo By Chris Farina

Photo By Chris Farina

When Rijker is in training, she's all business. She hopes a fight with Christy Martin is not far off, but conflicts between their promoters may prevent the women's superfight from happening.

Rijker hardly looks like the same person when she subtracts the sweat and replaces it with makeup. She has not ruled out the possibility of acting or modeling when she is done boxing.

per-view package that night.

DeShong was fresh off a loss to Martin in their rematch on the undercard of the Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield II debacle. Martin avenged her lone blemish by soundly beating DeShong with a seventh-round knockout.

Rijker, however, dominated DeShong to an even greater extent than "The Coal Miner's Daughter" did. Although Rijker did not register a knockdown, she battered DeShong from start to finish, landing 72 of 142 (51 percent) total punches and 38 of 58 (66 percent) powerpunches. DeShong was active and threw 111 punches, but she landed only 25 (23 percent). The scheduled six-rounder was stopped at 1:29 of the third after Rijker landed a barrage of shots.

"Christy Martin may have been the Jackie Robinson of women's boxing, but Lucia is the Babe Ruth," Hoffman said. "She'll hit the home runs."

Rijker, 29, has been a fighter her whole life, and she does not intend to stop anytime soon. The olive-skinned native of Holland is just now gaining fame as a boxer, but she is no stranger to *mano-a-mano* success. She was a champion long before she decided to try her hand at the Sweet Science.

Growing up as the youngest of four children to divorced, interracial parents—her mother is white, her father is black—Rijker took up karate when she was six and soon turned her efforts toward jujitsu. She became a Netherlands junior champion in fencing at 13, and one year later started kickboxing. That is where she found her calling.

"Fighting makes you express yourself more," Rijker said in her soft-spoken Dutch accent. "I like doing it."

In her sixth kickboxing match, Rijker defeated then-American women's champion Lily Rodriguez and, shortly thereafter, turned pro. She held three different kickboxing titles from 1985-94. She dominated in retaining her belts, scoring speed-record knockouts of 30 and 15 seconds in back-to-back matches. She also reigned as the women's Thai boxing world champion from 1984-94.

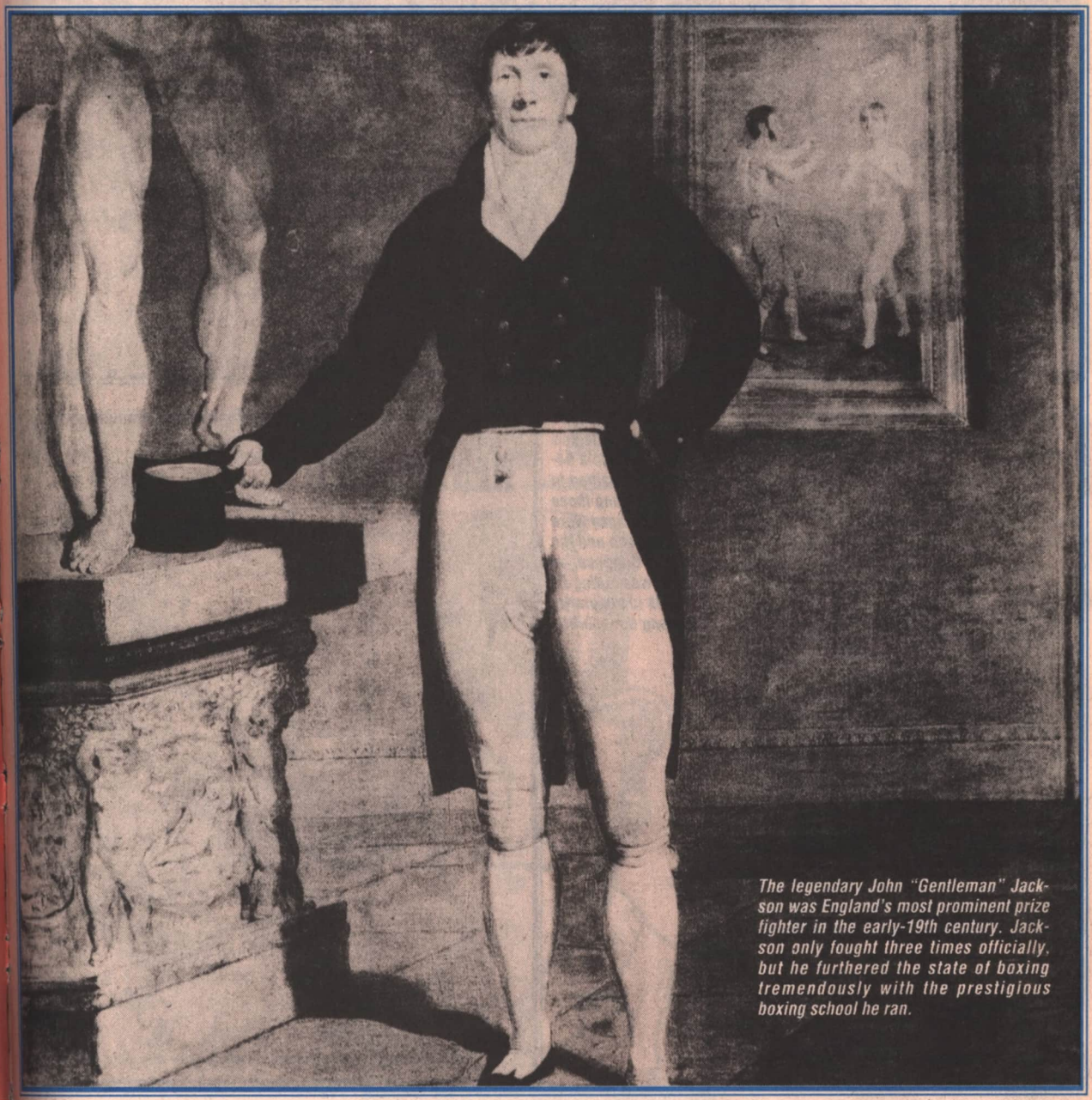
Rijker's kickboxing record currently is on hold at 38-1 with 25 first-round knockouts. Her lone loss came to a man, Somchai Jaidee of Thailand. In front of a sellout, hometown crowd in Amsterdam, Rijker was knocked out.

"I wasn't scared of him, and that was

(Continued on page 61)

LORDS OF THE RING

When Boxing Was The Sport Of Kings

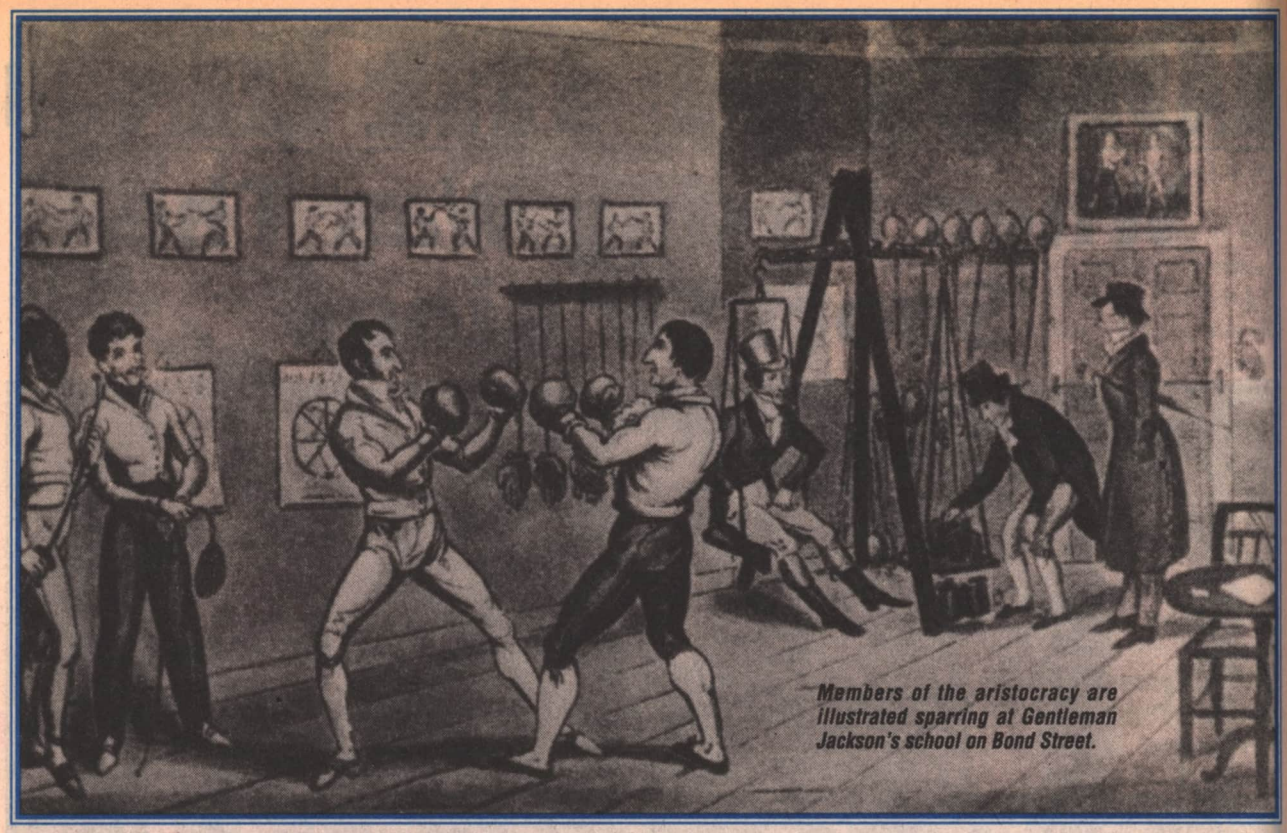


The legendary John "Gentleman" Jackson was England's most prominent prize fighter in the early-19th century. Jackson only fought three times officially, but he furthered the state of boxing tremendously with the prestigious boxing school he ran.

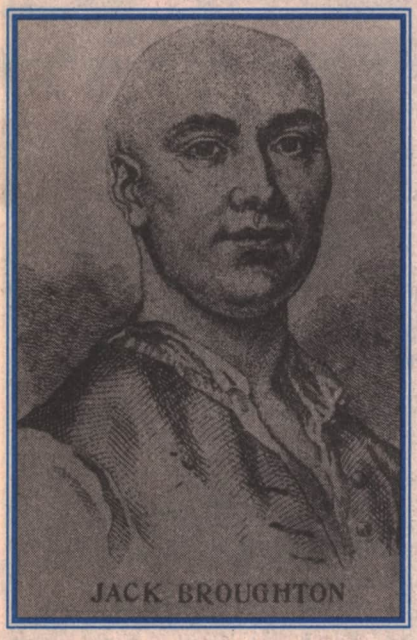
By **Simon Craig**

Use your imagination for a moment. Imagine that England's queen is no more, and King Charles III is now being crowned at Westminster Abbey. Outside, appointed to guard the entrance to that illustrious building, are Frank Bruno, Lennox Lewis, and Prince Naseem Hamed. And they are all dressed as pages. Grotesque? Perhaps. But we have missed such a spectacle by less than two centuries.

It was on July 19, 1821, that George IV, uncle of Queen Victoria, was

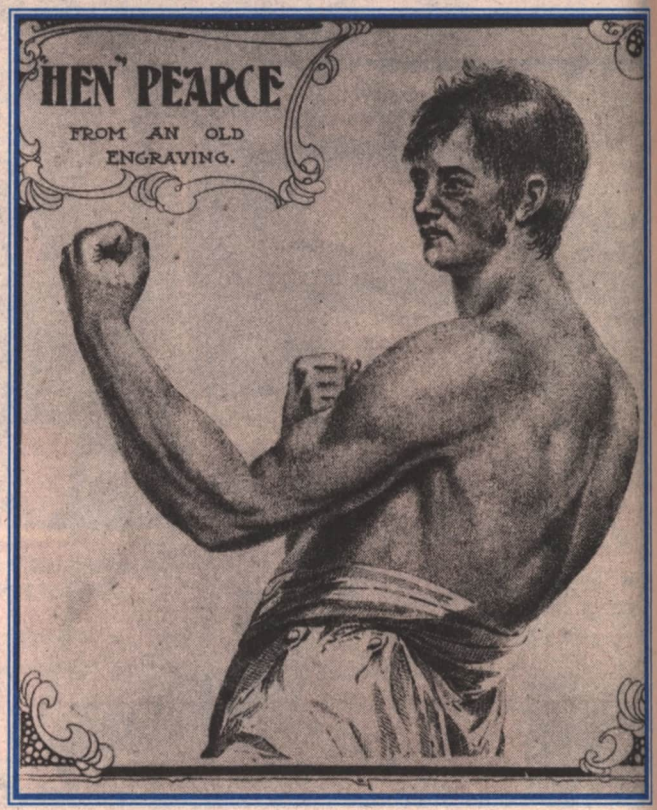


Members of the aristocracy are illustrated sparring at Gentleman Jackson's school on Bond Street.



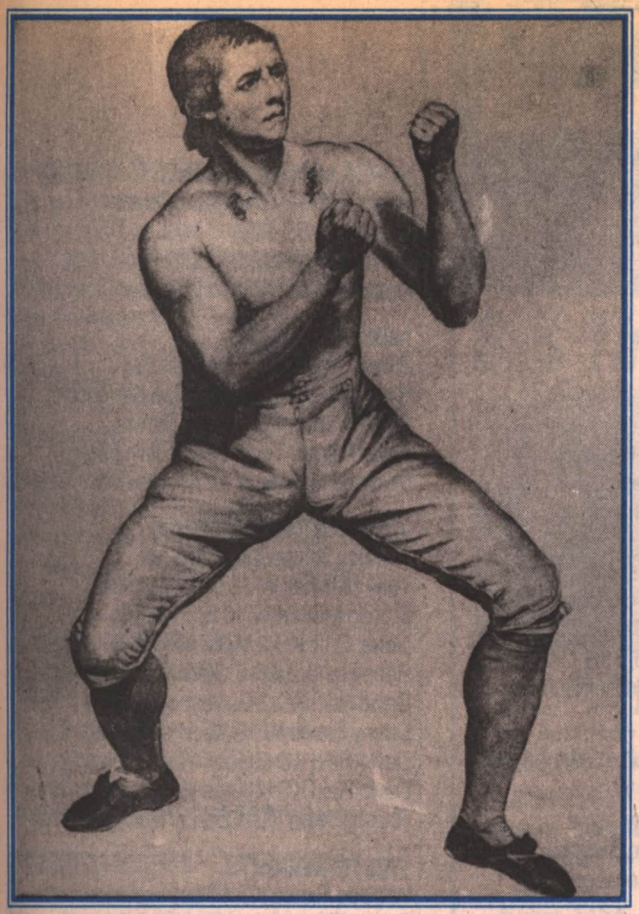
Jack Broughton was the finest bare-knuckle boxer of the first half of the 1700s, but, with £10,000 of the Duke of Cumberland's money riding on him, he was humbled by unheralded Jack Slack in 1750. Slack won the fight by strategically attacking Broughton's eyes, causing them to swell completely shut.

"The Game Chicken" Hen Pearce outlasted John Gully in a 64-round marathon in 1805. Among those in attendance were Lord Byron and the Duke of Clarence, as boxing was hitting its peak in popularity among the nobility.



crowned at Westminster Abbey. It was the usual tremendous British state occasion, full of pomp and circumstance. But the strangest circumstance of all was the appearance, almost in fancy dress, of 19 noted bare-knuckle prize fighters.

Their presence was by no means universally approved, but it was at least semi-official. The King had a problem: There was a strong possibility that the ceremony would be gate-crashed by his estranged wife, Queen Caroline. And since the soldiers on duty would have been there largely in a ceremonial capacity, he thought it necessary to arrange for a



In the late 18th-century, popular Tom Johnson was responsible for helping save boxing from obscurity. However, he blew all his money gambling and died in poverty.

Jem Mace, the last of the great bare-knuckle champions, was discovered by Nat Langham, the founder of the Rum-pum-Pas Club. Known as "The Swaffham Gypsy," Mace was a popular champion and an accomplished violinist.

more functional guard.

It may seem extraordinary now, but boxers have never stood so high in England's class-ridden society as they did in the early-19th century. You could find noblemen wearing their neckties "ala Belcher" in honor of a butcher's boy from Bristol, and boxing was one of the most common recreations of the peerage.

Chief among the 19 fighters present at the coronation was John "Gentleman" Jackson. Although he had only three real fights in his whole career, and lost one of those, Jackson is remembered as one of the greatest of all prize fighters. For 20 years, he ran a boxing school on London's fashionable Bond Street, and it is said that a third of England's peerage were among his clients.

Most famous among them was certainly Lord Byron. A poet, adventurer, and lady-killer, he was, according to one of his paramours, Lady Caroline Lamb, "mad, bad, and dangerous to know." But

In 1857, the eighth Marquis of Queensberry published the rules that still govern boxing matches today. While he is the most prominently remembered aristocratic patron of boxing, he is also remembered for his unappealing personality and his unpleasant relationship with Oscar Wilde.

Gentleman Jackson, with whom Byron was on intimate terms, certainly did not find him so.

Jackson naturally occupied a prominent place on a dressing screen that Byron decorated with a collage of boxing text and pictures culled from books and newspapers. It is said that he actually helped Byron with the cutting and pasting, which went on from 1812 to 1816, and he must surely have been consulted on the selection of material.

And during that period, a remarkable event took place at the house of Lord Lowther in London, an event as unthinkable today as the official presence of professional boxers at a coronation. In June 1814, the Czar of Russia was visiting London, and Lowther invited him to a sumptuous breakfast. In addition to the feast, there was entertainment in the form of an exhibition of boxing in which

(Continued on page 63)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Lennox Lewis KO 1 Andrew Golota
(Retains WBC Title)
James Gaines W 10 Jeff Wooden
Brian Nielsen KO 1 Bruce Douglas
Keith McKnight W 10 Phil Jackson
Julius Francis KO 6 Garry Delany
Sam Hampton KO 4 Isaac Brown
Anthony Green W 8 Bert Cooper
Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 3 Dan Conway
Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 3 Tony Larosa
Bernd Friedrich KO 5 Frantisek Sumina

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Don Diego Poeder W 12 Courtney Butler
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 2 Jeff Williams
Ramon Garvey KO 1 Roy Payne
Ryan Poletti KO 2 George Stephens
Jimmy Matz W 12 Rod Bensonhaver

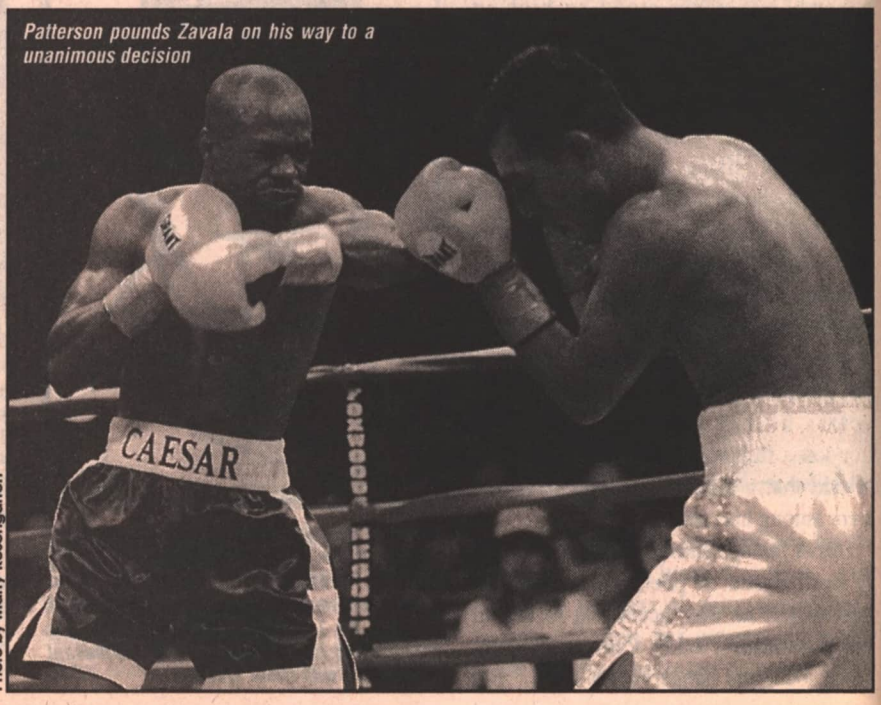
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Lou Del Valle KO 8 Eddy Smulders
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Chris Johnson Tech. Draw 3 Ernest Mateen
David Telesco KO 1 Dan Thornton
Mark Prince KO 3 Bruce Rumbolz
Antonio Tarver W 6 Berry Butler

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Robin Reid W 12 Hassine Cherifi
(Retains WBC Title)
Steve Frank W 12 Bill Durbin
Omar Sheika KO 2 Chris Cuellar

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Simon Brown KO 5 Reuben Bell
Robert McCracken KO 1 Joe Stevenson
Freeman Barr W 12 Jerry Brown
Kevin Palmer Tech. Dec. 6 Jinyul Song
Mourade Hakkar W 12 Andres Galfi

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Anthony Jones D 10 Oba Carr
Tony Marshall W 12 Steve Martinez
Bronco McKart W 10 Eric Holland
Lionel Ortiz KO 2 Victor Maciel
Rene Herrera KO 2 Quirino Garcia
David Noel KO 2 Guillermo Jones
Danny Pierce W 10 Abel Parker
David Reid KO 2 Geoff Yalenezian
David Reid KO 1 Jorge Vaca
Rhoshii Wells KO 1 Danny Monegan

WELTERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Rivera KO 1 Mark Hammon
Patrick Charpentier KO 1 Virgil Petrache
Geoff McCreesh KO 2 Paul Ryan
Michael Loewe W 12 Michael Carruth
Fernando Vargas KO 6 Alex Quiroga
Greg Haugen W 10 Mark Fernandez
Jeff Malcolm KO 5 Dindo Canoy
Pasquale Perna KO 10 Vittorio Barbante



Patterson pounds Zavala on his way to a unanimous decision

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Alfonso Sanchez KO 3 Charles Murray
Elio Rojas KO 11 Jose Barboza
Juan Martin Coggi KO 4 Agustin Gurrola
Soren Sondergaard KO 9 Jake Rodriguez
Juan Soberanes W 12 Roger Flores
Hector Quiroz W 10 Jaime Ocegueda
Ahmed Santos KO 9 Pete Taliaferro
Terrance Cauthen W 6 Eduardo Martinez
Zab Judah KO 1 James Salava

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Billy Irwin W 10 Jose Manjarrez
Alberto Sicurella W 10 Cesar Domine
Dennis Holbaek Pedersen W 12 George Parra

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Arturo Gatti KO 5 Gabriel Ruelas
(Retains IBF Title)
Tracy Patterson W 10 Rudy Zavala
Jesus Chavez KO 7 Troy Dorsey
Djamel Lifa W 12 Boris Sinitsin
Walter Rodriguez W 12 Rodolfo Aranda

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Cesar Soto KO 2 Jorge Monzon
Steve Robinson KO 5 Andrew Matabola
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 12 Vince Howard
Jesus Salud KO 2 Manuel Arellano
Augie Sanchez W 6 Enrique Valenzuela
Baby Loronda W 10 Noel Hammer Pan

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Antonio Cermeno W 12 Jose Rojas
(Retains WBA Title)
Enrique Sanchez W 12 Nelson Medina
Carlos Barreto KO 4 Angel Rosario
Nicky Bentz W 12 Javier Diaz
Zahir Raheem KO 5 Lionel Odom

BANTAMWEIGHTS
John Michael Johnson KO 5 Martin Solorino
Cuahtemoc Gomez KO 2 Alimi Goitia
Marcelo Nava W 10 Jose Antonio Moreno
Antonio Garcia W 10 Jose Navarro

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Eric Morel W 8 Carlos Hernandez
Julio Gamboa KO 2 Andy Agosto
Jose Rafael Sosa KO 4 Victor Fuentealba
Felix Machado W 10 Eidi Moya

FLYWEIGHTS
Arthur Johnson KO 12 Ilido Julio
Gilberto Gonzalez KO 7 Aquiles Guzman
Jose Lagos KO 7 Mozart Santos
Adey Lewis KO 8 Peter Culshaw

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Joma Gamboa KO 1 Carlos Murillo

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Double/Double Bag $150
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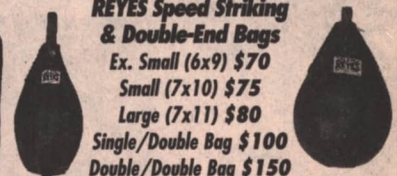

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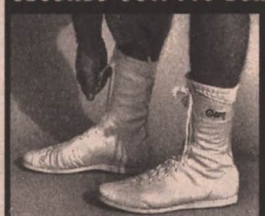

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Former Golden Gloves champion Del Valle had said prior to his September 20 fight with Eddy Smulders for the vacant WBA light heavyweight title that one of his primary goals in life was to defeat Roy Jones—both in the ring and on the basketball court. Whether he'll ever get an opportunity to play hoops with the WBC champ is anybody's guess, but his impressive title victory over Smulders certainly put him in a realistic position to make his boxing goal happen.

Del Valle, nicknamed "Honey Boy," may be getting ahead of himself with his talk of Jones and unifying the light heavyweight crown. But his mind was in the right place when he fought Dutchman Smulders in Aachen, Germany. Seeing Del Valle mercilessly pounding his defenseless opponent, referee John Coyle stopped the fight 22 seconds into the eighth round, awarding Del Valle his first world championship. Del Valle became only the second boxer of Puerto Rican descent to capture the light heavy title. The first was Jose Torres.

And who knows, maybe his dream fight with Jones isn't too far off.

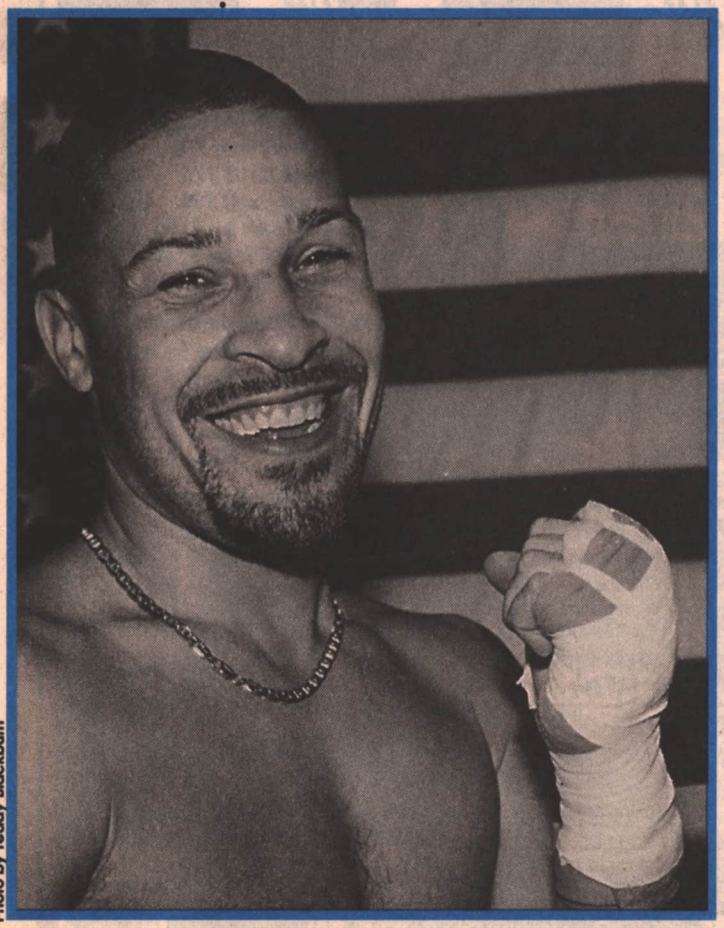

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

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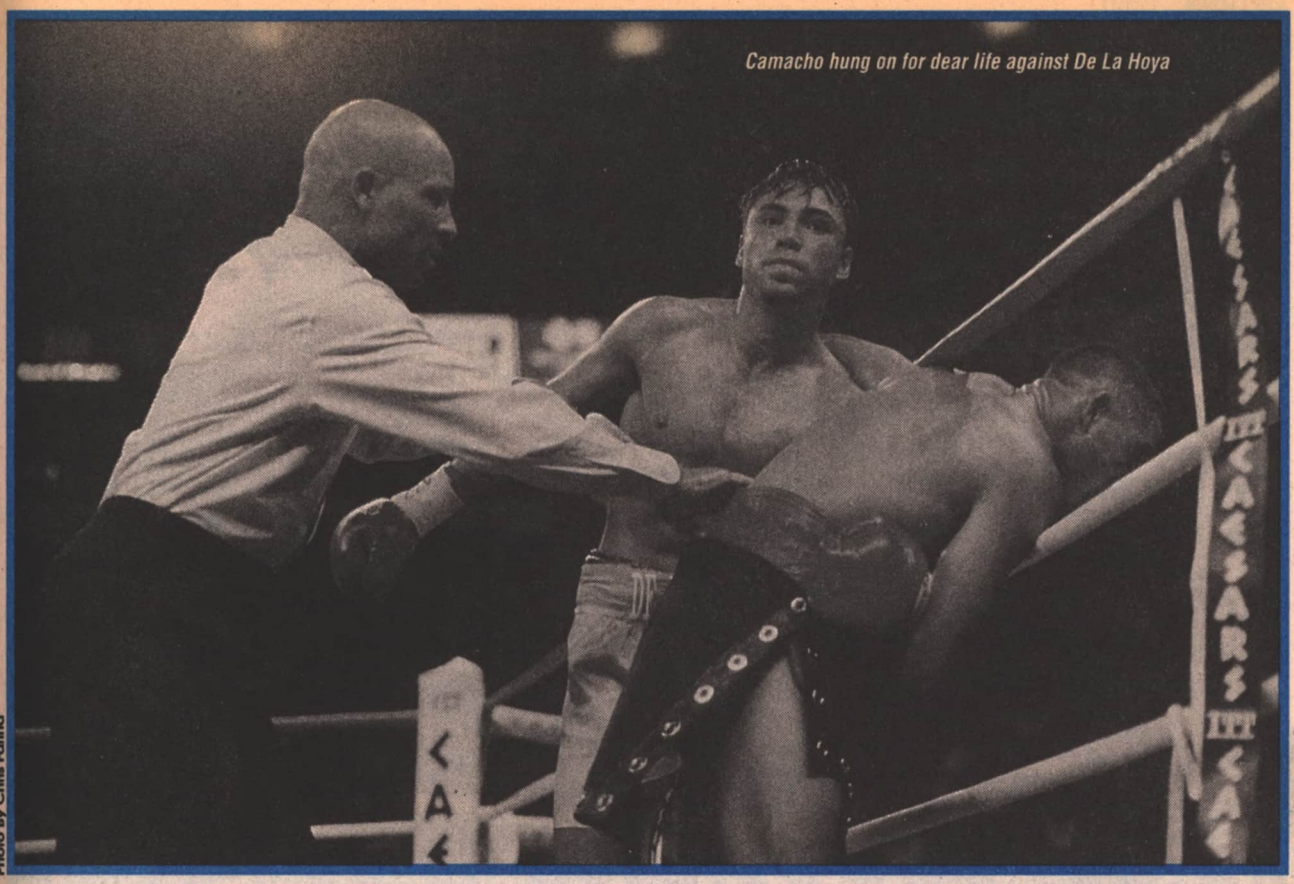
Lou Del Valle



Camacho hung on for dear life against De La Hoya

Photo By Chris Farina

Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Hector Camacho

Las Vegas, Nevada: Displaying superb focus, WBC welterweight champion De La Hoya forced Camacho into a desperate clutch-and-hold mode from the opening round, immediately answering all questions as to who would be champion at the end of the night. With Camacho intent solely on extending his career-long streak of never being knocked out, "The Golden Boy" had to settle for a masterful 12-round shutout before 13,644 hoarse and enthusiastic spectators at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Though De La Hoya, making his second defense, didn't get the kayo he coveted, he did assuage the partisan crowd's desire for a decisive victory by introducing the challenger from Bayoman, Puerto Rico, to the canvas in round nine for only the second time in his 69-fight career. Late in the 11th, The Golden Boy from East Los Angeles again gave the crowd something to rave about when he turned his vicious body attack up a notch in retaliation for being grabbed around the neck three times in the round. This type of holding was typical of Camacho's execution throughout the fight, and perhaps an early penalty would have opened the fight up and made it more exciting. Ironically, it was in the 12th round that referee Richard Steele (USA) opted to penalize Camacho a point for holding, too late to prevent him from hurting the pace of the match and from tackling De La Hoya in round 11.

Whatever strategy Camacho and his trainer, Pat Burns, had in mind for the versatile De La Hoya seemingly evaporated with the fight only 20 seconds old. The champion delivered the instant pressure he had promised, hurting "The Macho Man" with a left to the jaw. Camacho reeled back into the ropes, where De La Hoya delivered a fierce combination to the head, provoking the first of nearly 50 clutches by Camacho.

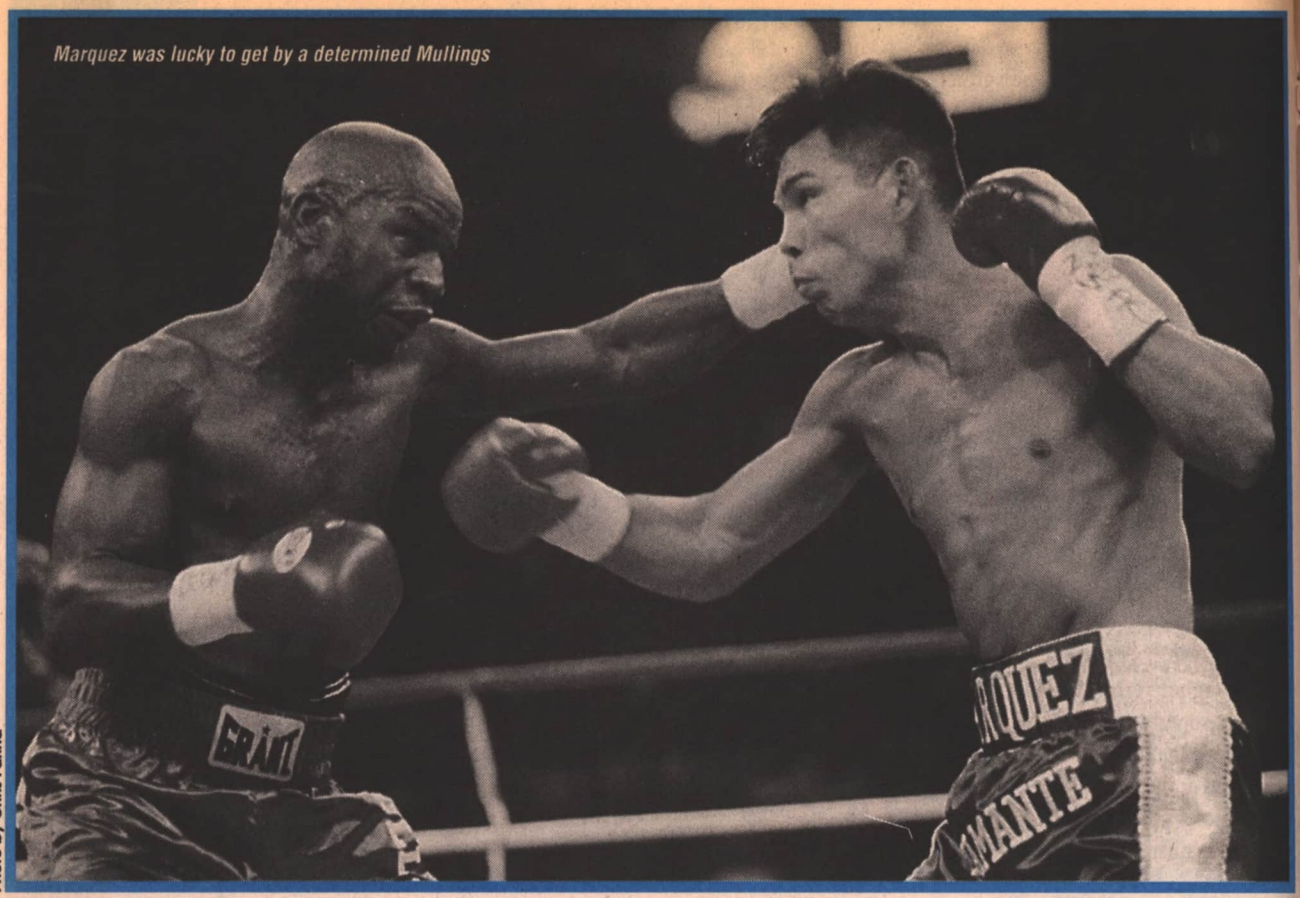
Camacho, despite previously holding two world titles, has always been a practitioner of hype over substance. The substance in this fight clearly belonged to De La Hoya, who put together lethal groupings of hooks, jabs, and uppercuts all fight long. Camacho was so focused on clutching and grabbing that he never devoted any thought to mounting a serious offense, earning him plenty of catcalls from the irate spectators from round six on.

De La Hoya, 24, kept his head, though, pouring on a pair of lefts and a right hand in the sixth that forced Camacho, 35, to lean on the champ to avoid falling down. Over the final four rounds, Camacho tried to wrap up the 1992 Olympic champion no less than 30 times, while De La Hoya refused to give The Macho Man a moment's rest.

Camacho made no apologies for his non-effort: "For me, it was either holding or running. My legs wouldn't let me run, so I had to hold," he said. "As for the press complaining about the holding, let me punch you in the face a couple of times and see what you try to do. I was trying to lay some jabs and try to control Oscar, so I could get off my left hand and throw some combinations. But his game plan worked perfectly. His confidence seemed to grow. He fought a damn good fight."

De La Hoya's trainer, Emanuel Steward, was delighted with his charge upping his record to 26-0 (21)—not to mention picking up a cool $9-million, plus pay-per-view perks.

"Once Camacho felt Oscar's punches in the first round, he knew he was in for a long night," said Steward. "Oscar felt he was just about ready to knock out Camacho in the 11th round, when Hector pulled him down and hurt his left shoulder. Throughout the



Marquez was lucky to get by a determined Mullings

Photo by Chris Farina

fight, Camacho felt he was going to get knocked out if he didn't use those holding tactics."

Camacho, 64-4-1 (32), was never more ineffective offensively in his 17-year career. De La Hoya's flashing fists earned him shutouts on two of the three scorecards. Chuck Giampa (USA) scored the fight 120-105, John Keane (England) had it 120-106, and Anek Hongtongkam (Thailand) saw it 118-108. THE RING tally was 120-105.

De La Hoya knew going in that the knockout he desired would not come easily. After the fight, he said, "This guy would do anything to avoid being knocked out. Sure I was a little frustrated, but that's the way he fights. If he can not win a fight, he will try to survive any way he can, and it usually makes for bad fights ... Fighting southpaws is an experience. I learned from the Whitaker fight and now I've learned from Camacho."

Promoters: Top Rank and Caesars Palace
Television: TVKO
(9-13-97)
Jack Welsh

Raul Marquez W 12 Keith Mullings

Las Vegas, Nevada: IBF junior middleweight champion Marquez had to know he dodged a major bullet in capturing a 12-round split decision over unheralded replacement challenger Mullings at the Thomas & Mack Center on the De La Hoya-Camacho undercard. Mullings, 30, Fayetteville, North Carolina, had two weeks to prepare for the bout after original opponent Yori Boy Campas suffered an injured sternum in training. Although he had come out on the losing end of three of his previous five bouts, Mullings nearly seized the moment in taking the 26-year-old undefeated champ from Houston, Texas, down to the wire.

In the official scoring, Bernie Cormier (USA) and Tom McDonough (Canada) voted for Marquez by scores of 115-113 and 116-112, respectively, while Bill Graham (USA) awarded the bout to Mullings, 115-113. THE RING scored it 115-113 for Marquez.

The early action went back and forth, with the tenacious Marquez scoring well with combinations to the head and body, while Mullings relied on a stinging right-left that would later lead to the swelling of the Texan's eyes. Marquez appeared to stun his adversary in the sixth round with a six-punch combination, knocking him off-balance with a left just before the bell.

Mullings was effective with short uppercuts to the head and body to win the seventh and eighth rounds, leaving the fighters deadlocked at 76-76 on all three judges' scorecards.

Marquez would later tell the media he hurt his left hand in the third round, and the right midway through the fifth, but did not elaborate on the cause or extent of the injuries other than to say "there was sharp pain in both hands."

The warriors banged heads early in the ninth, and Mullings' left compounded the bruise, opening a cut over Marquez' right eye. Referee Mitch Halpern (USA) briefly halted the fight in the 11th to examine the cut. In the final round, Marquez took on the role of the aggressor, capping several combinations with a heavy right that snapped Mullings' head back. The challenger roared back with a right-left-right sequence that backed up the champ, only to find himself on the receiving end of a jolting combination to the head in the final seconds.

Along with the majority of the crowd, Mullings, 14-4-1 (9), voiced his displeasure with the verdict.

"I felt I really won the fight," Mullings said, "but that's the sport of boxing. You have to knock out the champion to win. I'll definitely press them for a rematch."

Marquez, 28-0 (20), insisted he "did just enough to win" in what was his second title defense. "I was looking forward to fighting Campas, but Mullings is a real tough guy who gave me a real tough fight."

Promoters: Top Rank and Caesars Palace
Television: TVKO
(9-13-97)
Jack Welsh

Stevie Johnston W 12 Saul Duran

Las Vegas, Nevada: Fighting with a closed right eye as a result of a first-round headbutt, WBC lightweight champion Johnston, 24, managed to keep Duran, 23, in view well enough to retain his crown with a 12-round unanimous decision at Caesars Palace. Johnston, 134, Denver, Colorado, later admitted "this was a much, much tougher fight than I expected." But the champion called upon his superb guile and punching accuracy to leave Duran, 134, Juarez, Mexico, cut over both eyes, bleeding from the nose, and exhausted at the finish.

Promoter Bob Arum had projected Johnston to make his third defense against Sweden's George Scott, 32-1 (13), on December 6 in Atlantic City. However, after spending three hours in Valley Hospital to have the eye treated, Johnston appeared unlikely to be ready to fight again until early next year.

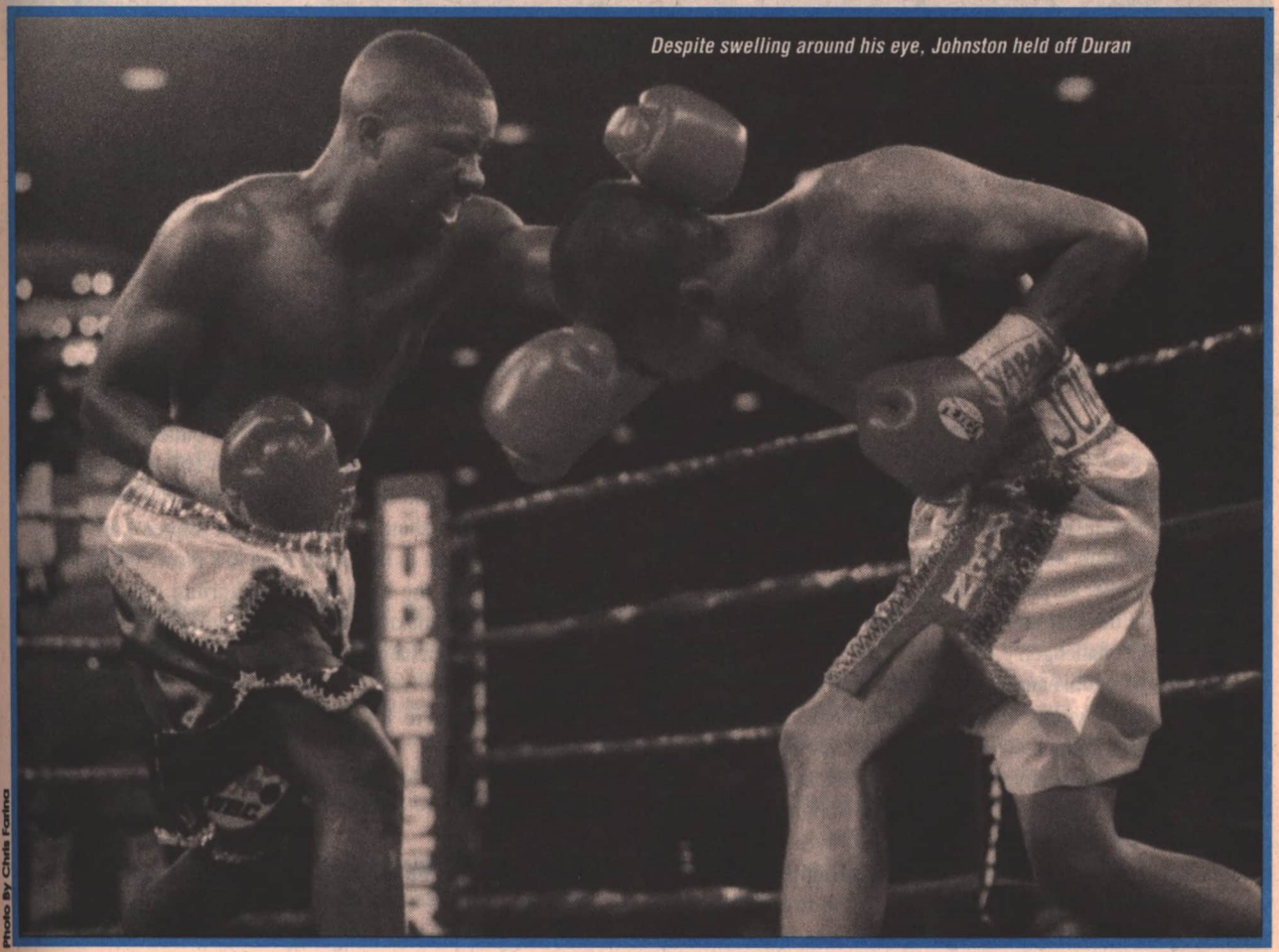
Johnston, 23-0 (13), swept the first five rounds with effective combinations to the head and body, and managed to cut Duran's right eye in the fourth round despite his own injury worsening.

"The butt came in the first minute of the fight, and after that the injury just kept closing and closing," Johnston said. "I could not see much out of my right eye after that, and I had some trouble finding Duran after that even though he was never far away."

Johnston stepped up the action late in the sixth round when he pinned Duran, 25-3 (20), on the ropes with a 10-punch salvo and then drove the challenger into his own corner just before the bell. Duran's fortitude was thoroughly tested in the seventh round when Johnston smashed him into a neutral corner with a virtually unanswered 11-punch onslaught. Johnston wouldn't let his rival off the hook, but was unable to score a knockdown—though referee Jay Nady (USA) did watch closely for a possible stoppage.

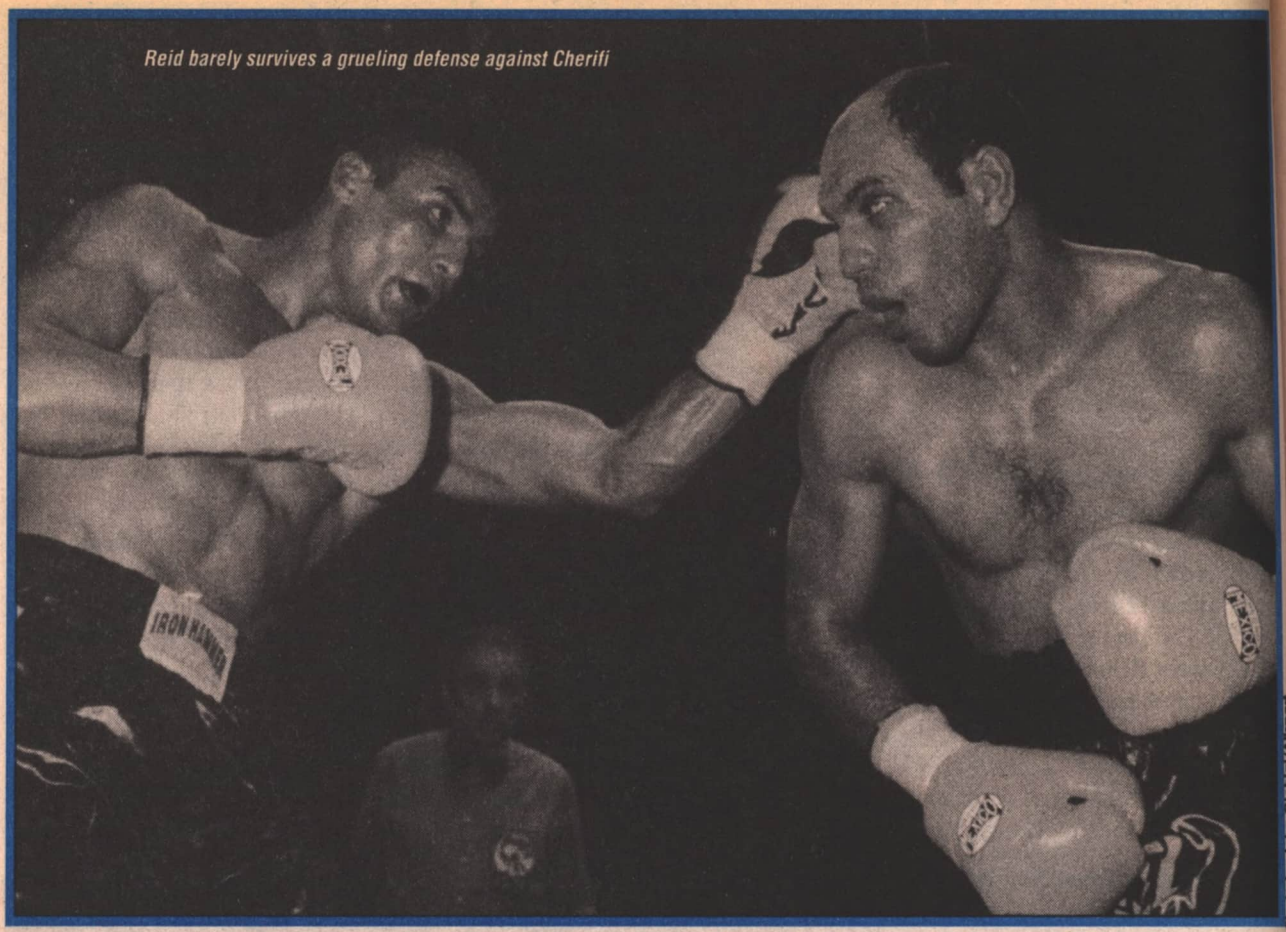
In the official scoring, judge Herbert Minn (USA) saw it 119-110, Rex Walker (USA) scored it 118-110, and Jerry Roth (USA) voted 117-111. THE RING's tally was 119-110, also for the defending champion.

In reflection, Johnston noted that taking the fight when he did was "almost a big mistake." He explained, "Three weeks ago back in Denver, I was involved in a car wreck with a hit-and-run driver. The guy ran a stoplight and took off. The impact threw me into the



Despite swelling around his eye, Johnston held off Duran

Photo By Chris Farina



Reid barely survives a grueling defense against Cherifi

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

steering wheel. I wasn't cut, but I had a tremendous lump over my right eye. I found out that the cut only healed on the outside, but was very tender inside.

"Miguel Diaz, one of the best cutmen in the business, saved the day when he wouldn't let my swollen right eye bleed bad enough for the fight to be stopped. When we banged heads in the first round, I felt for a moment we made a helluva mistake taking the fight."

Television: ESPN

Promoter: Top Rank

(9-12-97)

Jack Welsh

Mark Johnson W 12 Angel Almena

Nashville, Tennessee: Exhibiting tremendous grit and resolve, 22-year-old Almena went the distance in his bid to capture the IBF flyweight title, surprising observers who felt he would lose the fight within the first three rounds when Johnson, 26, unloaded furiously on the challenger.

"Too Sharp" put his amazing hand speed on display at the outset, staggering the young challenger with quick, southpaw jabs and combinations to the body and head in the first round. The second round started unusually when the Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico-born Almena was warned for not getting up from his stool immediately when the bell rang. The round ended even more notably, though, when Washington, D.C., native Johnson closed out the stanza by flooring Almena with a right hook to the chin with seven seconds remaining. Although Almena rose at the count of six, it appeared that Johnson's fourth defense of his title would not last beyond the third round.

But in the third, something strange happened: Almena began fighting back. Johnson came out of his corner looking for the kill, pouncing on the challenger with rapid-fire combinations, but Almena countered with a solid left to the head.

Almena was never close to being dropped again. Johnson slowly tired, and Almena effectively ran and counterpunched his way through the remainder of the bout, arguably winning the ninth and 10th rounds. While Johnson looked strong in the final two rounds, putting the fight completely out Almena's reach, the challenger's resiliency after such a bad start was quite admirable.

The fight was unanimously scored 119-107 by judges Beeba Exton (USA), Wayne Peters (USA), and Bill Clancy (USA). Johnson's bid for a shutout was lost when referee Larry Doggett (USA) penalized him in the fourth for a low blow. While Johnson, 33-1 (24), brought the Municipal Auditorium crowd to its feet with his dazzling quickness in the early rounds, it was Almena, 14-2 (9), who made a name for himself by hanging tough against a talented champion.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Promotions and Big Fights Promotions

Television: USA Network

(9-16-97)

Robin Reid W 12 Hassine Cherifi

Widnes, England: Under unbearably hot and humid conditions in a small, jam-packed Kingsway Leisure Centre, Reid, 166,

Bolton via Runcorn, England, battled and struggled to outpoint the durable Cherifi, 165¼, Lyon, France, by split decision to retain the WBC super middleweight title. It was his third defense.

The effort left Reid, 26, so dehydrated that he collapsed on the way back to his dressing room. Oxygen was administered by ringside paramedics and, though he remained conscious throughout, Reid was admitted to nearby Whiston Hospital where doctors diagnosed a chest infection before releasing him 24 hours later. Promoter Frank Warren also revealed that Reid struggled to make the weight after a five-day postponement to avoid a clash with the funeral of Princess Diana.

It was certainly a lethargic performance by Reid, and it sparked considerable debate afterward about the intensity of the ring lights that made it grueling even for those who just sat at ringside. The champion's punches lacked authority, and his attacks were only sporadically sustained, allowing reigning European middleweight champion Cherifi, 24-2-1 (17), to constantly trouble him and even take the initiative. The challenger might even have won if he had shown slightly more ambition.

Cherifi, 29, showed the effects of a left hook to the ribs in round one, but came back strongly in the second with a good left-right and a sequence of stinging jabs. Reid's left eye was marking up by the third round, at the end of which his cornerman vigorously massaged his arms.

Reid responded with a solid right over Cherifi's lazy left in the fourth, shaking the Frenchman momentarily, a predicament Cherifi was in again two rounds later, courtesy of another right and then a left hook. But the tables were reversed on Reid, 25-0-1 (18), in the seventh when he was nailed by a hard right. Visibly draining, he dug deep to catch Cherifi with a vicious left hook and a right that busted the challenger's nose.

They both showed character down the stretch, Cherifi walking through a left hook in the ninth, and Reid taking a battering in round 11. The challenger, though, finished stronger, and threw his arms up at the bell.

Roger Kreitz (Luxembourg) scored for Cherifi, 115-113. But Sergio Silvi (Italy) voted 116-113 for Reid, while Jesus Eroba (Mexico) had it too wide at 117-111, again in Reid's favor. THE RING saw it 114-113 for Reid, whose proposed mandatory match against former champion Sugarboy Malinga within 90 days now will be pushed back, possibly to 1998.

Referee: Tony Perez (USA)

Promoter: Frank Warren

(9-11-97)

Brian Doogan

Lou Del Valle KO 8 Eddy Smulders

Aachen, Germany: With precision powerpunches and an opponent who cooperated by repeatedly falling into them, Del Valle, 174¾, Bronx, New York, stopped Smulders, 175, Eindhoven, Holland, to win the vacant WBA light heavyweight title in the Tivoli Eissporthalle. The championship was vacated by Germany's Darius Michalczewski after his title victory over Virgil Hill on June 13.

Del Valle had lost to Hill in North Dakota last year, and was determined to make his second tilt at a world title a successful one. He did very little wrong, controlling the action from the moment he followed up a succession of opening-round southpaw jabs with a solid left that staggered the Dutchman and left him cut beneath the left eye. When referee John Coyle (England) intervened after 22 seconds of the eighth round, Smulders could barely raise his fists, never mind a protest.

The Dutchman, 34-2 (27), did try to get over the difficult first round by applying pressure to Del Valle, 27-1 (19), in the second. A sequence of strong right hands homed in on Del Valle, but he was not seriously hurt and remained calm. Then he swung the momentum heavily back in his favor with a jab and left hand that dumped Smulders, a former kickboxer, onto the floor for a count of eight. Three vicious left hooks, one a sickening blow to the body, sent Smulders down again, clearly in trouble. Coyle allowed him to continue, but he had to clasp Del Valle desperately before the bell came to his rescue.

Digging deep, Smulders rallied in rounds three and four, shaking Del Valle badly with a right hand. The overhand right continued to penetrate the southpaw Del Valle's guard in the fourth as the Dutchman continued to chug forward with some success. But Del Valle countered well in the fifth and caught Smulders with a strong right and a left just before the bell.

A left hand in the seventh signalled the beginning of Smulders' hasty demise. He had problems keeping his balance, and then two followup left hooks sent the Dutchman crashing to the canvas. He managed to beat the count, but again it was only the bell that saved him.

He came out for the eighth, but was in pathetic shape, and a sharp volley from Del Valle prompted Coyle to cave in.

The New Yorker may now seek a lucrative unification fight with Michalczewski, but the 34-year-old Smulders' career in the top flight seems to be over.

Promoter: Universum Box Promotions

(9-20-97)

Brian Doogan

Antonio Cermeno W 12 Jose Rojas

Caracas, Venezuela: Elongated speedster Cermeno, 122, Venezuela, retained the WBA junior featherweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over compatriot Rojas, 122, before a crowd of approximately 10,000 at the Jose Beracasa Gymnasium. The unheralded challenger, a game and tricky southpaw, had earned the right to fight for the title by upsetting previously undefeated Pastor Maurin in August.

The 28-year-old Cermeno, 29-1 (17), utilized his longer reach and faster hands to befuddle Rojas, 9-3-1 (6), and steadily piled up points with lefts and rights. Rojas stalked the champion throughout the fast-paced contest, but could never pin him down long enough to inflict serious damage. All three judges scored the fight for Cermeno, by scores of 117-114, 117-113, and 119-113.

Immediately after tallying his seventh defense, Cermeno announced he would relinquish the title in order to go after WBA featherweight champion Wilfredo Vazquez. Cermeno won the organization's 122-pound belt by outpointing Vazquez in May 1995. Vazquez subsequently captured the 126-pound crown by knocking out Eloy Rojas the following year.

(9-27-97)

Joe Koizumi ■

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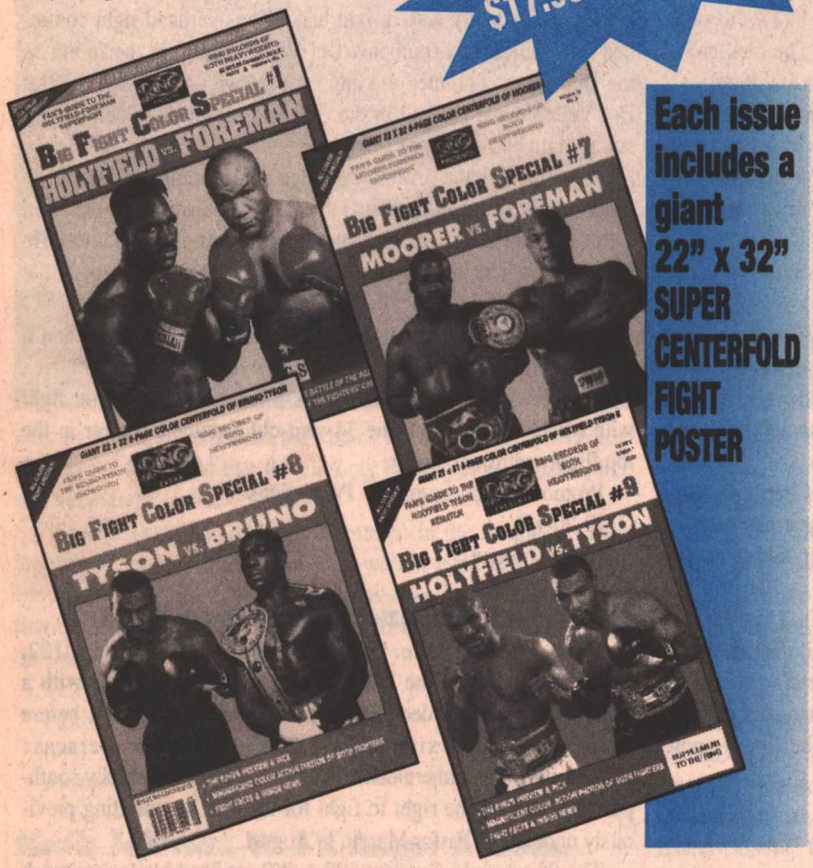

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New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

ured, what the heck? We worked together for over a year and he changed my whole outlook. I learned I had a knack for the game."

Lopez, a former junior lightweight and lightweight champion, also provided his pupil with unique motivational situations.

"Tony took me bungee-jumping from a bridge," said Corrales, laughing at the memory. "I promised not to chicken out, but once we got way up, there was no way I was doing it. I was trying to talk my way out, and he just pushed me off."

Having amassed an amateur record of 105-6, Corrales represented the U.S. in the Pan Am Games at age 17. Even so, despite his achievements in the ring, the offbeat Corrales still saw his future in the discipline of cuisine, not counterpunches. In fact, he has already gained a chef's degree from a culinary trade school.

"I didn't plan on becoming a pro fighter," he said. "I always wanted to cook, and my parents were gonna help me get started. I always loved cooking for the whole family when I was younger. Mom and Dad both worked all the time. I love fine food, but I get my reward watching how people eat it. You want to cook and present it so nice it almost looks too good to eat."

Corrales' manager, Cameron Dunkin, has an astute eye for talent that includes signing both Johnny Tapia and Danny Romero. Dunkin noticed Corrales at the national amateur finals.

"I liked everything about him, but all I saw was a lot of potential," said Dunkin. "He's a complete fighter now. He lost to Terrance Cauthen in '95, but I knew it was time to forget the amateurs. Diego was obvious pro material."

Corrales embarked on his professional fighting career in Phoenix, where respected trainer Willie Borchert was able to devote full-time attention to the rookie. Phoenix is currently a boxing hotbed with a strong gym scene and quality clubshows frequented by both old and new fans. Corrales became an immediate draw and

built an early following without any previous background in Arizona. It wasn't so much his early knockouts of limited opponents such as Victor Mendoza or Lorenzo Chaires; it was the sheer talent he displayed. Youthful promoter Tom Gaffney, still an occasionally active pro himself, is known for putting on popular shows built around developing prospects like Corrales.

"He's the kind of fighter everybody likes, a mix of action and skills," said Gaffney.

Corrales soon outgrew Phoenix, and moved to Las Vegas in order to advance his career.

"We loved Phoenix and [Borchert] did a great job," said Dunkin, "but we could only go so far and we wanted to take 'Chico' in a different direction."

"It was a good move for me," said Corrales, who took his wife, Sonja, and infant son, Joel Ray, to Vegas with him. "It's a big fight city. I felt welcome from the first day here. [IBF junior welterweight champion] Vince Phillips messed with me so much, I didn't know if he was serious or not. Then he introduced himself and was very encouraging."

Corrales is currently part of Top Rank's Vegas stable, and training duties have been taken over by Kenny Adams, the former Olympic coach who also trains Phillips.

"He's the best coach I've ever had," said a beaming Corrales. "He's made me more mobile. I can use my hand speed on the go. And he loves to joke. It's amazing how much fun he makes it."

Watching Corrales' long-armed, looping blows has observers recalling names like Hearns and Arguello. Corrales has already progressed enough to have co-headlined with comebacking Orlando Canizales at the recently opened Orleans Casino. Corrales' opponent that night was well-traveled Javier Pichardo.

"I was really prepared," said Corrales, who disposed of Pichardo with a second-round uppercut. "I didn't want to box this guy. He was very strong. He gave me my first bloody nose ever. But I was hurting him with uppercuts, so I showed him the jab until he was open."

Corrales said that Steve Quinonez was his toughest pro foe to date.

"He's a top prospect, and they called to fight, so I said okay," recalled Corrales. "I had him down in the first, but it was a very tough fight. He finally started to wear down."

The match was stopped in the fourth frame, solidifying Corrales' status as a star-in-the-making in the eyes of Vegas customers. And on the De La Hoya-Chavez card in June '96, Corrales' big punches got the most positive fan reaction besides "The Golden Boy's" slashing finish. Corrales fought rugged Ciro Canales in the hot afternoon sun before thousands of pro-Chavez fans.

"That was the most incredible experience of my career because of the amount of people I knew would be seeing it," recalled Corrales. "I felt some tension, but once I went into the arena, it was amazing."

In his most recent bout before press time, Corrales ran his knockout streak to 13 with a fourth-round stoppage of respected Isagani Pumar, who came in with a record of 26-8-2 against mostly quality opposition. Corrales was concerned about his hands that were injured in a previous match, and was rocked in the opening session before roaring back to score two knockdowns at the finish.

Wisely, Corrales hasn't let his penchant for quick finishes cause him any dangerous illusions.

"I know I have to get some more good rounds in," he said. "Give me a couple more tough fights to learn about the 12-round distance. That's the advantage of any belt, going 12 rounds. I know there's a lot of guys working very hard out there."

Someday, the extra experience may make a difference. The hard part is finding a realistic opponent at the proper level who can last the distance. Corrales' fights currently last an average of 2½ rounds. Still, the down-to-earth prospect doesn't chase sugarplum visions that leave many new pros desperate or disillusioned.

"I've never imagined a dream fight," said Corrales. "If I keep winning, something big will happen. I'm having fun now. It's my job, I belong in that ring. I'm becoming successful as a pro athlete, which is the working man's dream. Every fight is a thrill." ■

Phil Woolever is a freelance writer based in Tucson, Arizona.

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Mayweather-Sanchez

(Continued from page 23)

Sanchez had beaten Mayweather at the Olympic Trials and was considered a shoo-in to beat him again at the Box-offs. But when Mayweather won two debatable decisions and beat out Sanchez for a berth on the team, it began a rivalry that has bound them together ever since. They are tired of always having to answer questions about the other, and it seems that Las Vegas is just not big enough for both of them. Whether they like it or not, Sanchez and Mayweather might find themselves fighting each other sooner rather than later.

"Both of these guys are fine prospects with unlimited potential," said Lee Samuels, publicist for Top Rank, which promotes both fighters. "Augie is extremely anxious to fight Floyd and is really convinced he will beat him."

When asked why Top Rank would be so eager to match two potential superstars so early in their careers, Samuels explained, "This is a great fan's fight. We were going to do a fight like this years ago with Michael Carbajal and Scotty Olson. We tagged Scotty on a number of Carbajal's undercards to generate interest, but the fight never materialized. This is the type of fight we should probably do now because of the weight difference. If we don't do it now, it might never happen."

The 20-year-old Sanchez, 13-0 (11), has been campaigning at 126 pounds, while Mayweather, 10-0 (8), has been fighting at junior lightweight and usually weighs closer to 140 by fight time. He plans on eventually competing at 147 pounds. Although Sanchez has had more fights, he has yet to graduate from six-rounders, while Mayweather, on the basis of his Olympic bronze medal, has propelled himself full-steam ahead directly from six-rounders to 10-rounders.

When Mayweather fought fringe contender Luis Leija, 18-4-1 (14), on HBO in September, it was scheduled for 10 rounds, but he annihilated the normally durable Texan inside two. Nonetheless, neither Mayweather nor his camp were the least bit worried about him going the distance if necessary.

"I can go 10 rounds or 15 rounds or 20 rounds if I have to," said Mayweather. "I run in the mountains every morning and box at least 11 rounds a day. Boxing is the sole focus of my life, my bread and butter. I'm 20 years old and all I think about is boxing. I don't think about distractions. Beating Leija was just like beating any other opponent. I don't think about opponents, they think about me."

Sanchez, who insists there is no bad blood between Mayweather and himself, said he was not the least bit impressed with his rival's victory over Leija.

"People talk about how he beat Leija, and what a good record Leija had," Sanchez said. "But a record is just a record, it means nothing. Leija was a good opponent for him because he gave him too much respect. It's easy to look good against a guy who is giving you too much respect."

Even though Sanchez feels Mayweather snatched his Olympic dream by questionable means, he said, "I wish him the best, but there is a very competitive thing between us. He has been saying some negative stuff. I really wish him the best until he fights me. Then I'll wish him the best after I beat him. To beat him I just have to pressure him and wear him down. He can't run forever."

Mayweather, on the other hand, claims he looks at Sanchez as nothing more than a pesky nuisance who provides no challenge and no significant payday.

"I'm not chasing him, he's chasing me," asserted Mayweather. "I don't need him, he needs me. What am I gonna get out of fighting Augie? He's not on the same level of me. I'm a 10-round fighter, he's still fighting six-rounders against guys with losing records. He's a kid, I'm a grown man. We fought as amateurs, but he never got hit by me when he had no protective gear on and I was wearing eight-ounce gloves. I'm on another level now, and he's too slow to do anything with me."

Both young men have been around boxing for as long as they can remember, so this type of talk comes easily and seems genuine. Mayweather's father, Floyd Sr., was a solid journeyman in the 1970s who gave a respectable account of himself against Sugar Ray Leonard and Marlon Starling. His two uncles, Roger and Jeff, are still active pros. Roger, who currently serves as the Olympian's trainer, is a two-time former world champion. Jeff is a journeyman lightweight who also serves as a sparring partner to the stars.

Father Floyd was recently released from a Michigan prison where he served three years for drug dealing. He will soon head west and act as his son's manager. The trio of older Mayweathers have been teaching young Floyd the rudiments of the Sweet Science since he was three years old.

"Floyd has been around boxing so long it was not even an adjustment for him to turn pro, or go right from six to 10 rounds," said Roger. "People keep bringing up the Sanchez fight. Floyd didn't lose that [amateur] fight, the computer [scoring] lost it for him. People got to learn they can see better with their eyes than through a computer. Everybody scores differently. As far as we're concerned, they fought four times, and Floyd won four times. If they fought on the pro level, Augie wouldn't last four rounds. I mean, c'mon, Floyd was sparring with guys like Pernell Whitaker and Frankie Randall when he was just a boy."

Sanchez, who goes by the nickname "Kid Vegas," has also been around boxing since he could walk. His father Juan, a welder by trade, was his boxing guru and has trained him since day one. Two brothers, Juan, 28, and Fernando, 24, both had generic pro boxing careers. Sanchez had an amateur record of 187-11, and fought against national teams from Canada and Mexico. He was also the 1994 National Golden Gloves champion. After losing to Mayweather at the Box-offs, he was invited to Atlanta as an alternate, but declined the offer.

"First of all, I thought I should have been representing the United States, not him," said Sanchez. "Then, to go there as an alternate, all I would have been is a sparring partner. They would have even sent me home before the actual games began. I wouldn't even get to see my teammates fight. It was all very insulting."

Sanchez has also been training regularly with several of boxing's premier fighters and has more than held his own. Among those luminaries are Johnny Tapia, Azumah Nelson, Wayne McCullough, and Tim Austin. Against Nelson, Sanchez said he "landed quite a few shots [although] he [Nelson] was hard to hit because he moved his head so well." He said he was not asked back to the Tapia camp after a few days because the junior bantamweight champion

"was too small for me, so he didn't want to spar with me anymore." What makes you believe these assessments are not the result of youthful boastfulness is Sanchez' refreshingly honest assessment of sparring with McCullough and Austin.

"Usually, the second I hit a guy they have respect for me," said Sanchez. "But Wayne and Tim walked right through my punches and kept throwing their own. They were both hard to hit solid, but I did real well against them anyway."

Sanchez is growing weary of fighting six-rounders and is eager to make a move. While not prone to shameless self-promotion, he genuinely realizes what a fine prospect he is, and he's not alone. Michael Katz, the normally cynical boxing writer for the New York *Daily News*, has compared him to a young Alexis Arguello.

"I'm really ready to move up in competition and in rounds," Sanchez insisted. "I'm also really eager to fight Floyd. Although that might not happen, I want it to happen. After I beat him it would just prove to everyone that I should have been sent to the Olympics, not him."

While he does predict a degree of success for his rival, he says Mayweather will not be able to revel in it until he settles their score at the professional level.

"Floyd is quick, but he's not really a hard puncher," said Sanchez. "He's just a fast puncher who moves quick and is in tremendous shape. I know him very well though, and all I would have to do is cut off the ring and pressure him. He hates pressure. I would definitely catch up to him in eight or 10 rounds. If the fight was scheduled for eight, it would be over in six. Deep in my heart I know I would beat him."

Roger Mayweather says Sanchez is dreaming and would be destroyed by his nephew in the same fashion Leija was.

"This fight could happen only because both guys live in Las Vegas and [because of] the Olympic controversy," said Roger. "But Augie would be crazy to take the fight. It would be his first and last payday. I watched Augie grow up [in Las Vegas gyms] just like I watched my nephew grow up. There is no comparison between the two right now. I know Augie like a book. I even used to train both of his brothers for a while. I watched them grow up, too. I know everything there is to know about them, and Augie couldn't beat my nephew on his best day. I like Augie. I just can't understand why he wants this fight so bad. I mean, doesn't he know what he's getting himself into?"

Top Rank head honcho Bob Arum has been high on Mayweather since his pre-Olympic days, and with typical promotional hyperbole labeled him "a cross between Oscar De La Hoya and Julio Cesar Chavez." If Mayweather has a flaw, it could be overconfidence. When given a list of possible future opponents, a list that included Angel Manfredy, Genaro Hernandez, Tracy Patterson, Arturo Gatti, and Phillip Holiday, he blew them off as "nothing but names to me," and added, "I'm ready to fight anybody. Names mean nothing to me."

Maybe not, but Augie Sanchez is one name Mayweather had better to get used to hearing on an increasingly regular basis, a name from his past that is rapidly becoming the most important name in his immediate future. ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.

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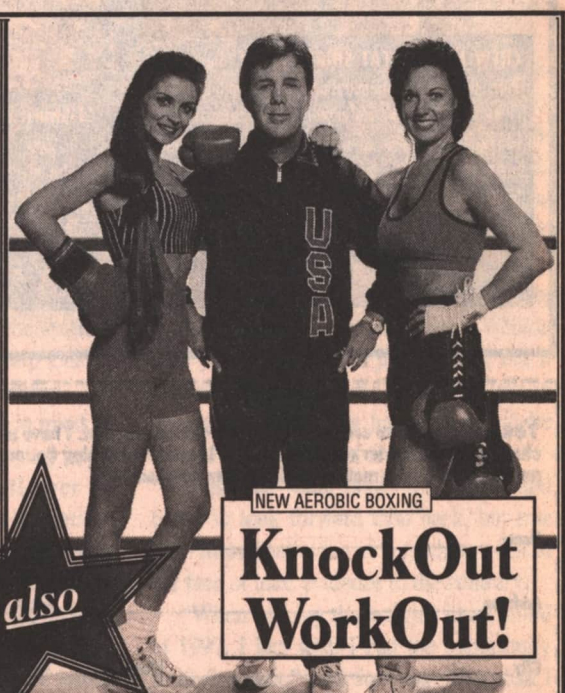

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Marvin Johnson

(Continued from page 33)

fighter in the world. It didn't really matter to me. When I lost, again the first thing that came to mind was financial, providing for my family. Was I going to be able to do that?"

In 1979, Saad Muhammad took the title in a match whose viciousness equalled their first encounter. Later that year, Johnson won his second belt by stopping Galindez for the WBA version. He lost it to Eddie Mustafa Muhammad (nee Eddie Gregory) a year later. Six years after that, Marvin stopped Leslie Stewart in seven to regain the WBA crown, which he subsequently lost back to Stewart.

Johnson retired in '87 with a record of 43-6 (35), and went to "Plan B," working full-time as a custody officer at the Marion County Jail. He has been there for the last 13 years.

"I took on the job because it looked like I was not going to make the $1-million payday I hoped to make in boxing," he said. "I knew I was getting tired of boxing and was ready to go. When I started, I still had hopes of making that $1-million payday and of not having to stay there. This was 'Plan B,' and I went with it."

Peltz thinks that $1-million figure was probably unrealistic.

"Who was making that much back then? I think the only guys who got it were Spinks and Braxton, when they fought each other," said Peltz. "[Marvin] made several purses of around $150,000. I think his biggest payday was when he lost to Leslie Stewart and got $200,000. You know, he didn't hold the title long enough. Losing it each time in his first defense kept him from making any big money." (Actually, Johnson did successfully defend the WBA title once, stopping Jean Emebe in 13 rounds between the Stewart bouts.)

Except for the two or three guys every year who try to make a reputation for themselves by challenging the former light heavyweight champion of the world, the inmates whose recreation he supervises "have a likable respect for me," said Johnson. "They want autographs to send to their kids at home, but I generally don't consent. I don't want to give their kids a false impression of what jail is all about. They could think, *I might get out there and meet a superstar!* I tell [the autograph-seekers in jail] to wait till they get out."

It's all part of Johnson's effort to use a "Godly mind" whenever he can. "It's so important that people realize I've given my life to Christ, that I'm trying to live as He would have me live," Johnson said.

His strong faith comes from his mother, Ruthie Mae Johnson.

"I thank God for her," said Johnson. "She always taught me never to be braggadocious or egotistical. And that if God blessed me with something, don't ever feel you're better than someone else. That always stayed with me."

As poor as they were in his childhood, Johnson recalls that whenever someone came to the door asking for food, it was given. "My mother would give clothes to Goodwill, and the next week she'd go to Goodwill and buy those same clothes back. She liked to give, and these things she just embedded in us. She trusted God, and this is the reason I feel so strongly now about Christ."

So strongly, in fact, that the former champion is training for another championship, but not in the ring. This time, Johnson's coach is Pastor Leroy Lawrence, who is tutoring him in Bible studies.

"It's like it was with Champ Chaney," said Marvin. "I wanted what he had. I wanted to be like him. I was so hungry to be like Champ. Now my minister, Pastor Lawrence, he's got what I want. I'm relying on him to take me to the ultimate championship of the world—the spiritual one—just like I relied on Champ Chaney to take me to the other championship.

"I'm certain God has things in mind for me that ... I should hesitate saying it, but that are going to take me all over the nation and maybe the world. Something that's going to give Him glory. One of the things I regret is that I never, ever glorified God like I should have. Now my mind is focused on pleasing Christ 100 percent. Right now, pleasing Christ is more important than the job I have at the County Jail."

Johnson knows that his new goals will require even more determination and sacrifice than he demonstrated in boxing.

"My background is not something I really even like to talk about," he said again. "It brings back so many memories, and the memories are hurting ones. I sacrificed so much. I don't think anybody has sacrificed more for a sport than I did. Now, if I can sacrifice my life for Christ the way I did for boxing, I guarantee it will make an impact on the world."

That, says Johnson, "is pretty much my life. The good part is I'm not struggling. God has blessed me with my mental faculties. I have friends who fought, and they're stuttering when they talk and getting disability because they can't hold a job. My Olympic teammate, Sugar Ray Seales [the only U.S. boxing gold medalist in '72] suffered blindness. I've got just a slight slur in my speech, and I believe that to be the result of boxing. I believe that it has increased just a little bit, although my wife says that it hasn't. There's just a couple of other things I've noticed that I look at as side effects of boxing, but nothing major. I'm so thankful. I didn't get out of it what I wanted, but God gave me what he knew was best."

And now Marvin Johnson is trying to do the same for God. This impressive, highly moral, and articulate man wants only to be the best Christian he can be, which means forgiving even what he can't quite forget.

"It's difficult for me to get into a conversation with a former boxer I lost to, because as a boxer, one man against another, I took my boxing so seriously," he said.

For instance, when Johnson's old rival Saad Muhammad visited him on a trip to Indianapolis not long ago, "I was thinking, *You whipped me, and I can't get it out of my mind. I want revenge, to prove I could beat you.* I realize it's just a sport, but it meant so much to me. I had so much depending on it, it's hard for me to be friends with anybody I fought."

It may be water under the bridge, and better to look forward than back, but true faith means believing in something even in the face of hard evidence to the contrary.

"When I replay those fights in my mind in 1997, I just wish I had the opportunity to do it again," said Johnson. "Because I just know I could beat these guys. I know that in my heart, just like I know I'm a child of God." ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer living in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

De La Hoya-Camacho

(Continued from page 37)

the box office, it wouldn't make financial sense. So rather than take a chance on losing to someone else first, everybody takes easy fights while they wait for a shot at Oscar and complain he won't fight anybody.

The division is beginning to resemble a stable of virgins saving themselves for the right guy. And when managers see that even the transparent Camacho can make $3-million stepping into the ring with De La Hoya, who can blame them? Boxing fans can, that's who. We want to see all these guys tangle. Fighters who want to be remembered don't hide out until the great purse in the sky comes along. They take advantage of the other talent that's out there by testing themselves against it. Remember Duran, Hagler, Leonard, Hearns?

Right now there are four big fights waiting for De La Hoya: Trinidad, Quartey, Norris, and a rematch with Whitaker. "Next year," pledges Arum, "he will fight three of those four, maybe. Two of those four for sure. Oscar is the most active of any champion. He'll have had five fights this year. But you can't fight everybody at once.

"When you fight these name fighters, they want a lot of money—too much money even for HBO. So we have to go to pay-per-view, and that gets complicated. For example, pay-per-view shows traditionally don't do well in December."

That's why, Arum explained, Wilfredo Rivera was scheduled for this coming December 6. He's a "credible" opponent, Arum noted, but not a big name, so he rates only a second-rate calendar slot. Camacho, on the other hand, was a dream opponent for the business side of the boxing ledger—a fighter who could draw a decent crowd, yet had about as much chance as a zebra wrestling a lion.

A showman of some renown, Camacho has long behaved like the producer of a low-grade sitcom. When he discusses his output, his words bear no relevance to the actual content of his inferior product. The rest of humanity has a word for this sort of behavior. It's called lying.

For years Camacho refused to fight anyone of even second-tier competence. If he somehow ran into any real opposition, he promptly ran for his life. Yet before each fight—as he did prior to facing De La Hoya September 13 in Las Vegas— "The Macho Man" stressed the power of his (nonexistent) punch and his will to win. "No one's really tested Oscar," blah, blah, blah.

Fans who watched the fight on the tube had to hear announcer George Foreman actually echo this preposterous Camacho drivel, babbling repeatedly about The Macho Man's determination to win. If they listened closely, viewers could hear the jaws of co-announcers Jim Lampley and Larry Merchant drop, because they saw what everybody but Foreman saw. Camacho fought for all of 30 seconds—until he got tagged with a hook in the first round. After that, he ran a half-marathon—backward.

On the other hand, despite all his tough talk during their prefight publicity tour, it appears Camacho, who sank to 64-4-1 (32), did indeed learn to love De La Hoya. Which explains why whenever Macho ran out of running space, he hugged his opponent like a long-lost brother.

Meanwhile, to earn unscheduled timeouts, the Camacho corner busied itself tearing strips of tape off their fighter's gloves and dumping tubs of water onto the canvas. But Oscar handled it. He pursued well, didn't forget to punch to the body, and showed that when he gets tangled up with the other fighter, he has learned to keep punching until the referee steps in.

Emanuel Steward appears to fit in well with the De La Hoya nucleus—Alcazar, brother Joel De La Hoya, and Joe Pajar, Oscar's buddy from his high school days. Those three were with De La Hoya when he didn't have a dime. No matter what else happens in his life, he keeps them close, the mark of a standup guy.

But to the die-hard non-believers, it can't mean a thing. "Arum is a tremendous promoter," said the dubious Beyrooty. "He really knows how to move his fighter. He's masterful." You get the drift. Arum, the theory goes, moves his Golden Boy around the real obstacles. Paradoxically, in one of those weird ironies that permeate boxing, the naysaying Beyrooty also happens to be a vital part of De La Hoya's history. Oscar the Olympian made his pro debut November 23, 1992, at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood, California, where Beyrooty promptly dubbed him "The Golden Boy," a nomenclature that Oscar will no doubt carry forever. "It was a no-brainer," Beyrooty said. "He was the lone U.S. gold medalist in 1992."

Psychotherapists will tell you there is always some kernel of truth to the ravings of paranoid lunatics. It's a pattern that in some ways relates to the irrational disrespect critics hold for De La Hoya. Because if truth be told, he did sprint quickly through the lightweight and junior welter divisions without finding time for Shane Mosley or Kostya Tszyu. (Vince Phillips, who ultimately stopped Tszyu, taking his IBF belt, was then campaigning at 147. So he can't claim Oscar ducked him.)

And among his lesser opponents, De La Hoya never added the hard-hitting Sammy Fuentes or the tricky Hector Lopez to his dance card, opting instead for easier targets such as Darryl Tyson and Carl Griffith. But De La Hoya moved up from 130 to 147 pounds in less than five years. Consequently, he will have to hang around at welter for a while until his body catches up.

"Oscar walks around at about 153," Arum said. "Other welterweights are walking around at 165. His body's got to mature. He's not going to be heavyweight champion of the world."

It's difficult to know now what sort of tests De La Hoya might face at middleweight a few years down the road. But it appears he will have to make his true mark in the richly talented welterweight division. If he can win three out of four against Whitaker, Quartey, Norris, and Trinidad, it would be a fantastic achievement. After all, even the great Ali lost to Frazier and Norton. And if De La Hoya vanquishes them all? The hard-core unbelievers have already prepared their comments:

"The judges were idiots." "What a stupid ref!" "Besides, these fighters were all bums." "When's he going to fight somebody decent?" ■

Ivan Goldman is The Ring's West Coast correspondent and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Lucia Rijker

(Continued from page 42)

part of my problem because when I'm scared, I'm sharp," Rijker said during a 1995 interview. "It's good to be scared. It's my power. It's everybody's power."

Three years ago, Rijker grew bored with kickboxing. When gimmick matches became necessary to get her motivated, she knew it was time for a change.

"I reached that level where I thought I did everything you can do," Rijker said. So she moved to Los Angeles and proceeded to live it up. She wanted to find out how other people, the ones who don't train 365 days a year, lived their lives. She soon found such an existence was not for her.

Rijker missed the gym. She missed the action, the competition, the right to say she was the best.

"I still have an ego," Rijker said. "Every fighter has an ego. Once your fame is gone, everybody forgets about you. I had to start over again. People knew me in Holland, but here they didn't know me. Doors were closed. It was a humbling experience. I had to prove my worth all over again."

She eventually was persuaded by Stan Ward to start training as a boxer.

"He kept telling me, 'You're a champion, baby. You got what it takes. Just give me four weeks, baby, I'll make you a champ,'" Rijker recalled.

After some time with Ward, Rijker realized she did have what it took. The problem, however, was that she was not getting enough guidance from Ward and started simultaneously training with Joe Goossen in his Van Nuys, California, gym.

"I tried it with Joe, and felt this was what I needed," she said. "Everybody was working hard, no one was hanging out. But it was like when you're married and you're seeing someone else. It hurt me. [Ward] knew he couldn't compete with Joe on a professional level. So he let me go."

Soon, though, Rijker discovered she could not work with Goossen on his professional level either. Goossen's regimented instruction was not her style.

"I found that wasn't for me," she said. "Joe is a father for his fighters in a way, and I didn't need a father. I was looking for a trainer. I was not some little girl who was going to be getting in the way. He's like a father to 10 kids, and I was the daughter. In his camp, everybody travels in a group. Everybody eats the same thing. You do everything together. I felt he was holding me back. I was number five on the list behind all these other fighters."

Rijker then joined up with Freddie Roach, noted for associations with Michael Moorer, Virgil Hill, James Toney, Steve Collins, and Frankie Liles. With Roach, she receives the individual instruction she requires.

"He knows how to bring out the best in a fighter," Rijker said. "He doesn't tell you what to do. He shows you how to do it. He gives you personal attention. He's very sincere. He's a very personable trainer. The communication I have with Freddie is something I didn't have with Joe."

With Roach and Miguel Diaz in her corner, Rijker possesses that fighter's confidence when she talks about meeting and beating Martin. The prerequisite trash talk already has started. Martin is quoted as saying that she only will make the fight if Rijker passes a test to prove she is a woman. Although Rijker refuses to say anything derogatory in return, she did state, "After I beat her, I will give her a rematch. Then when I beat her twice, we'll see what happens."

That wait-and-see attitude is not limited to the ring with Rijker. It also pertains to her personal life. Despite three marriage proposals, she remains single with no children.

"Marriage doesn't mean much to me," she said. "But in a companion, I am very particular." Rijker claims to be looking for a man who "can accept my strength and not suppress it."

Rijker eventually would like to raise a family, but points to her boxing dedication as a detractor from domestic life.

"I'm [cut out to be] a mom. I know I am," she said. "But when I think about putting a child in this world, I feel helpless. I like to work hard, and when you have a family in these difficult times, you need to be there for your kids. The life of the fighter is very isolated, very self-centered, very selfish. While I'm fighting, it's all about me, how I look, how I perform."

Rijker wonders what professional options are on the horizon. Her stunning beauty parleyed with major ring success could mean a profitable career in either modeling or acting, especially since she already lives in Southern California. She has appeared in several women's magazines and daily newspapers, but rarely is she portrayed as a fighter. Most accompanying photos depict her as a ring goddess, glistening in the gym. Rijker, though, is quick to point out that she's "not a sex symbol." But if she can use her looks to launch her postfight life, Rijker is all for it. It is apparent she has given thought to working in front of a camera.

"Acting is a lot like fighting," she said. "I'm a performer. I'd like to experiment with it. You focus on your character like you focus on your opponent. That opponent becomes your character, and then when that fight or role is over, you have to let it go and move on to the next challenge."

Rijker also would like to use her experience and celebrity status to set up an organization to help athletes learn how to live once they no longer can compete. She wants to teach them how to manage their money, restructure their lives, and put their egos in proper perspective. She also intends to lend her time as a spokesperson for women's issues.

In the meantime, she has her eyes set on other goals. While Martin is earning six figures for each fight, Rijker is driving around in a 1989 Dodge Colt.

"I have to make as much money as I can the next couple of years," she said. "I want to be set for life, so I can take care of my family. Someday I'll drive up in a big Mercedes, own a big house, fly a plane. But I think happiness comes more when I appreciate the small things. I usually take those things for granted, things like health, skill, wisdom, good people who are around me and support me. I have this whole world ahead of me. A lot of people don't have that." ■

Tim Graham covers boxing for the Las Vegas Sun and is a frequent contributor to this magazine.

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Aristocracy

(Continued from page 45)

Jackson, naturally, took a prominent part.

It all seems a world away now, but in fact the connection between boxing and high society in England has the deepest of roots. The first mention of a contest in modern times comes in an early newssheet, *The Protestant Mercury*, in 1681. We knew none of the details, but it is reported that the Duke of Albemarle arranged a match between his butler and a local butcher. By a strange coincidence, incidentally, when Byron's famous screen was sold in 1816, its new home was on Albemarle Street.

It should not really surprise us that aristocrats were so closely connected with boxing, for betting was the lifeblood of the fight game, and it was the nobility who had the money.

But then as now, to retain the favor of those who mattered, you had to produce results. This was a lesson painfully learned by Jack Broughton, surely the greatest boxer from the first half of the 18th century. His patron was the Duke of Cumberland, better known today as Butcher Cumberland because of his ruthless behavior on the battlefield of Culloden where he finally crushed Bonny Prince Charlie's Jacobite Rebellion.

Cumberland was the son of King George II, and was fascinated by boxing. He was accustomed to wagering large amounts on the outcome of fights, and in April 1750; he staked the extraordinary sum of £10,000 sterling on Broughton to beat the almost unknown Jack Slack.

Slack's tactic, tried and trusted in the bare-knuckle era, was to go for his opponent's eyes. Sufficient swelling would close them completely and render even a superior man easy prey. The fight was over when Broughton cried pathetically to Cumberland that he was not beaten but blinded. It amounted to the same thing, though, and Cumberland, in his disgust, dropped Broughton completely. It was the beginning of the end of the Duke's patronage of boxing, which now went into a steep decline that was to last for a generation.

True, boxing had never been more than semi-respectable, but its status had hitherto been secure enough. In 1723, a public ring had even been set up in London's Hyde Park "by order of his majesty" (George I) for the use of all who wished to settle a dispute with their fists.

It was in the 1780s that a champion appeared who again brought luster to prize fighting, and with it the patronage of the richest in the land. Tom Johnson seems to have been an amiable character as well as a fine boxer, but he had a great weakness for gambling. By 1791, he was at a very low ebb financially, and the Duke of Hamilton offered to back him against Ben Brain (known as "Big Ben" two centuries before Nigel Benn took the nickname). Johnson lost, and although he was still involved with prize fighting for some years, he was to die in poverty in Ireland in 1797.

But Johnson had been instrumental in saving boxing from obscurity and disrepute, and the sport was now to enjoy its golden age. It was patronized again by the highest society, including the Prince of Wales, later to employ Jackson and the others at his coronation.

The Prince was, in truth, an unsavory character, disloyal and ungrateful, a wastrel with a great talent for spending the money of others. But he set himself up as a leader of fashion, and those who wished to be fashionable followed. When in 1785 he led them to the prize fight in which Richard Humphreys defeated Sam Martin, the sport had its ultimate seal of approval. As well as the Prince, the Duke of York was present, and even the French Duc D'Orleans. Boxing had arrived.

For the next 40 years, scarcely a big fight took place without royalty and aristocracy in attendance. In October 1805, for example, there was a famous contest between John Gully and Hen Pearce, nicknamed "The Game Chicken." The Duke of Clarence, later to succeed his brother George IV as William IV, watched the fight from horseback while Lord Byron was also present. The night before the fight, which was won by Pearce in 64 rounds, Byron had dined with Gentleman Jackson and Viscount Althorp, a direct ancestor of the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

But it was not to last. In 1824, the year in which Byron died in the cause of Greek independence, Gentleman Jackson gave up his rooms on Bond Street, and prize fighting went into another decline, one from which it never really recovered. Although Victoria was still in her infancy, the puritanical moral code associated with her name was already on its way, and boxing was widely condemned.

Yet the tradition among the aristocracy, if not among royalty, was by no means dead. Nat Langham, himself a noted fighter, founded in the middle of the century the Rum-pum-Pas Club for well-heeled followers of boxing. It was Langham who discovered the last of the great bare-knuckle champions, Jem Mace. Known as the Swaffham Gypsy, though he probably had no gypsy blood in him. Mace was a most popular champion, and a lover of music who never liked to be without his violin.

Mace first appeared on the scene when Langham invited him to the Club, where he took on and beat all comers. The first challenger was Lord Drumlanrig, who took his thrashing good-naturedly. It must have been a strange spectacle, with Mace stripped to the waist while the nobleman still wore—as was only proper for a lord—his ruffled shirt.

Drumlanrig was to have another, and much more significant, impact on boxing, for he fathered the eighth Marquis of Queensberry, surely the best known of all aristocratic patrons of the ring. It was Queensberry's rules, first published in 1867, that effectively established boxing as we know it today. Sadly, the Marquis was one of the most unlovable characters ever involved in the fight game, and is now remembered almost as much for his vindictive pursuit of Oscar Wilde, whom he hounded to disgrace and ruin.

A far cry indeed from the days of the admirable Gentleman Jackson. The great boxer now lies in London's Brompton Cemetery beneath a splendid tomb that was raised, as the inscription tells us, "by several noblemen and gentlemen, to record their admiration of one whose excellence of heart and incorruptible worth endeared him to all who knew him." Jackson died in 1845. Neither he nor his world will ever be seen again. ■

Simon Craig is a freelance writer based in London, England.

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Erik Morales

(Continued from page 39)

tion, become a doctor, a lawyer—something distinguished. As long as the job requirements did not include absorbing a gloved fist to the head.

But when Erik told his father he wanted to become a professional boxer after 118 amateur fights, Jose didn't fret. He knew that the reality of this cruel sport would jolt Erik, just as it had jolted him years before. Then, and only then, would his headstrong son get on with his education, with his life.

"His mother said to just let him go ahead and turn pro," Jose Morales said. "She said he would get beat up, then he would go back to school."

Well, baby-faced Erik turned out to be a better pugilist than either Mama or Papa Morales ever imagined. The young product of Tijuana, Mexico, wasn't absorbing the gloved fist, he was delivering it, steamrolling through the 122-pound ranks and reeling off 26 straight wins, 20 by knockout.

Along the way, he developed a classic standup style, with silky-smooth boxing skills and one-punch crunch in both mitts. But for all his success—and all their pride in that success—his parents must have flinched with the announcement that their son, still a boy by boxing standards, was challenging an old warrior, 39-year-old Daniel Zaragoza, for the WBC super bantamweight title.

Zaragoza, after all, was a veteran who won his wars by outwilling and outgutting his opponents. His fights were never artistically pretty, but they were beautiful tributes to his indomitable fighting spirit. The courage and grit of this man was the stuff of legends—up there on the Evander Holyfield level—and he had proven himself repeatedly over a thrilling 15-year career.

Even those in Morales' camp had to wonder if their young charge had the mettle to overcome such a warrior. Sure, 21-year-old Morales had the skills to beat Zaragoza. He was younger, faster, with quicker reflexes. On paper, at least, it was no contest.

But did he have the heart?

That question was answered midway through round four of Morales' spirited challenge September 6 at the El Paso County Coliseum. Zaragoza, who had gotten the best of Morales through three rounds with his awkward, lunging punches, bullied the challenger into a corner, and fired a single, devastating left uppercut to the chin. Morales retreated, his head snapping upward, his eyes receding into his head—a young fighter who was hurt for the first time in his career. Morales had said he was ready to be a world champion; now was the time to prove it.

Morales' knees quivered, and Zaragoza attacked like a starving shark. But the kid from Tijuana survived. By the end of the round, Morales was trading freely with the old man. Even Zaragoza, 55-8-3 (27), seemed surprised.

What followed was a dramatic, ebb-and-flow match, with both fighters staggering each other. Morales, with the exuberance of youth, would start each round firing away, pounding Zaragoza's ribs and establishing a frantic workrate that had the sold-out crowd of 6,000 near delirium.

But toward the end of the round, Zaragoza's will would emerge. The end of each round was like a mini gut-check for Morales, as the wildly attacking Zaragoza would sum up the incredible zeal to bull and shove his challenger to the ropes, rough him up on the inside, and test his fortitude.

Through seven rounds, Morales had passed each test. But round eight—and those that followed—were a stratosphere that Morales had never seen before. Those were the rounds in which he pounded his adversary with-

out mercy, only to be pounded in return, the champion flashing an evil grin as his inspired, emphatic late-round rally left Morales shaking his head in disbelief.

If you were among the crowd at the El Paso County Coliseum, you will remember the eighth round forever. You will remember a champion whose will kept him up when his legs were faltering. You will remember a champion who kept punching when his arms seemed fused to his sides, heavy and listless with fatigue.

It was amazing, but it was also predictable. Zaragoza was not just any champion. He has been the most gutty little performer of the decade, and he was not about to let some youngster take his title without a fight. A real fight. A fight to the end.

At the end of the round, Morales, exhausted, slumped on his stool as his chest heaved and burned. He knew there was still much more fighting to do.

He engaged Zaragoza in a test of wills in the ninth and 10th rounds, competing furiously in the stanzas that are supposed to belong to the champion. But he summoned the strength to fire some heavy artillery to the body in the 10th round, putting the king on his back, and it was apparent that Zaragoza, as proud as he was old, would wilt under the barrage.

For Morales, the magic moment arrived in the 11th, when he fired a single, perfectly timed right hand to the solar plexus, sending Zaragoza to the canvas, where he performed a semi-somersault, his butt rocking on the floor for several seconds before he struggled to a sitting position. Then he glanced up at the kid, raising his fist as if to say, "Nice shot, son. The belt is yours. You've earned it."

Referee Laurence Cole counted to 10, signaling the end of one great career, and the beginning of another.

"Not only is it my dream to finally win a world title, but the dream is even better since I beat Zaragoza," said the beaming new champion. "It was more difficult than I originally thought. But I decided to do nothing but bodywork from the ninth round on. The last punch was a straight right to the solar plexus, and it took everything out of him."

For Zaragoza, the end of a long road appears imminent. He was competitive with Morales, but it was a punishing fight, and most boxing fans, and especially the adoring crowd in El Paso, would love to see the old man hang 'em up and take on a more leisurely profession. El Paso's message to Zaragoza: "You have nothing more to prove."

Morales, meanwhile, has potential star quality. And he can look forward to some possible big-money showdowns with an array of formidable 122-pounders. The toughest of the bunch would be Junior Jones, one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in boxing, who just so happens to own perhaps the most lethal right hand in the business. There's also a possibility of an all-Mexico shootout with Marco Antonio Barrera, who, until his two losses to Jones, was considered the next great Mexican fighter. And there'll be more green if Morales decides to take on Wayne McCullough in Ireland or Orlando Canizales in Laredo. And if he really wants to test himself, he can step up to 126 and challenge the awesome Naseem Hamed.

Regardless, it doesn't look like Mama or Papa Morales will be resting comfortably anytime soon. ■

Matt Aguilar covers boxing for the El Paso Times and USA Today.

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of August 1997, the WBC as of September 1997, and the IBF as of September 1997.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	6
Andrew Golota (POL)	2	4	10
Orlin Norris (USA)	3	5	9
David Tua (NZ)	4	12	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	6	–
Ray Mercer (USA)	6	–	5
Francois Botha (SA)	7	1	2
George Foreman (USA)	8	–	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	9	–	–
John Ruiz (USA)	10	8	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	11	3	3
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	7	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (USA)	–	9	12
Jerry Ballard (USA)	–	10	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	1
Obed Sullivan (USA)	20	–	4
Hasim Rahman (USA)	–	–	7
Chris Byrd (USA)	19	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	C
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	1	2	–
Torsten May (GER)	2	5	7
Johnny Nelson (GB)	3	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	4	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	5	3	11
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	6	–	3
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	7	–	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	8	9	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	9	10	9
Don Diego Poeder (HOLL)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Adopho Washington (USA)	–	4	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	6	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	7	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	8	5
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	20	11	4
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	8
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	29	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	4	–
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	2	–	6
Montell Griffin (USA)	3	–	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	4	6	5
Merqui Sosa (DR)	5	7	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	6	8	12
Richard Frazier (USA)	7	9	11
Chris Eubank (GB)	8	10	–
Mark Prince (GB)	9	–	–
Don Lalonde (CAN)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	3
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	–	2	8
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	3	4
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	15	5	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	7
Richard Hall (USA)	–	12	9
Will Taylor (USA)	26	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	2	–	9
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	3	1	5
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	4	8	4
Henry Wharton (GB)	5	–	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	6	–	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	7	3	1
Herol Graham (GB)	8	5	–
Eric Luças (CAN)	9	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	14	2	3
Leif Keiski (SWE)	27	4	–
Francis Dean (GB)	–	6	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	25	7	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	13	9	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	10	6
Vacant	–	–	2
Willie Monroe (USA)	–	–	7
Tony Byrd (USA)	–	–	8
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	8	5
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	4
Paul Vaden (USA)	4	2	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	5	7	–
Brian Barbosa (USA)	6	4	7
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	7	–	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	8	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	9	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	10	3	10
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	5	–
Robert Allen (USA)	12	6	8
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	9	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	14	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Antoine Echols (USA)	–	–	6
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	C
Felix Trinidad (PR)	1	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	2	2	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	3	8	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	4	10	–
Steve Martinez (USA)	5	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	6	1	3
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	7	–	–
Robert West (USA)	8	–	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	9	–	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	10	–	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	3	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	20	4	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	–	5	–
Jason Papillion (USA)	19	6	4
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	7	10
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	9	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	5
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	–	6
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	16	–	8
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	17	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	3	1
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	2	2	3
Derrell Coley (USA)	3	4	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	10	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	5	–	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	6	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
Edwin Rosario (PR)	8	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	9	7	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestriaev (RUS)	–	1	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	6	–
Juan Negron (PR)	28	8	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	24	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	4
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	5
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	6
Purcell Miller (USA)	–	–	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	9
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–

Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	5	4	5
Reggie Green (USA)	6	7	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	7	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	8	3	2
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	9	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	10	5	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	6	3
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	8	6
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	9	–
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	4
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	7
Jan Bergman (SA)	11	–	8
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	9
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	2	3	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	4	1	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	5	–	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	6	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	7	–	–
Marco Rudolph (GER)	8	–	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	9	5	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	10	–	4
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	14	2	2
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	12	4	11
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	6	7
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	7	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	–	8	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	9	9
Samir Cherrad (FRA)	26	10	–
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	28	–	1
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Israel Cardona (USA)	–	11	5
Luis Flores (COL)	–	–	6
Acelino Freitas (BRA)	15	–	8
Wilson Palacio (COL)	24	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Robert Garcia (USA)	1	5	1
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	6	–
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	3	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	4	7	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	5	–	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	6	11	–
Jesus Chavez (USA)	7	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	8	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Saul Duran (MEX)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	24	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	3	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	4	4
Miguel Casillas (MEX)	–	8	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	9	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	10	–
Harold Warren (USA)	15	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	5
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	6
Barry Jones (GB)	–	–	7
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	14	–	8
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	–	9
Tautoma Yasuda (JAP)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	1	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	10	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	4	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	6	–	–
Floyd Havard (GB)	7	–	–
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	8	–	–
Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)	9	–	–
Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	10	11	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	2	3
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	3	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	4	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	5	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	14	6	–
Hector Acero Sanchez (DR)	–	7	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	25	8	5
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	–	9	8
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	–	4
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	6
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	7
Hector Valaquez (MEX)	12	–	9
Edward Barrios (COL)	20	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	2	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	2	3	8
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	3	–	6
Spencer Oliver (GB)	4	4	5
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	5	7	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	6	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	7	–	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	8	–	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	9	5	2
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	15	1	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	6	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	16	8	–
Angel Rosario (PR)	23	9	–
Jose Cheo Rojas (VEN)	20	10	–
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Sean Fletcher (USA)	–	–	7
Valdir Matias (BRA)	–	–	9
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Paul Ayala (USA)	1	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	11	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	3	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	4	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	5	–	8
In Jin Chi (KOR)	6	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	7	9	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	8	–	6
John Michael Johnson (USA)	9	–	5
In Sik Koh (KOR)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	4	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	5	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	16	7	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	13	8	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	10	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	18	–	3
Juan Sanchez (COL)	–	–	4
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	–	–	7
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	10

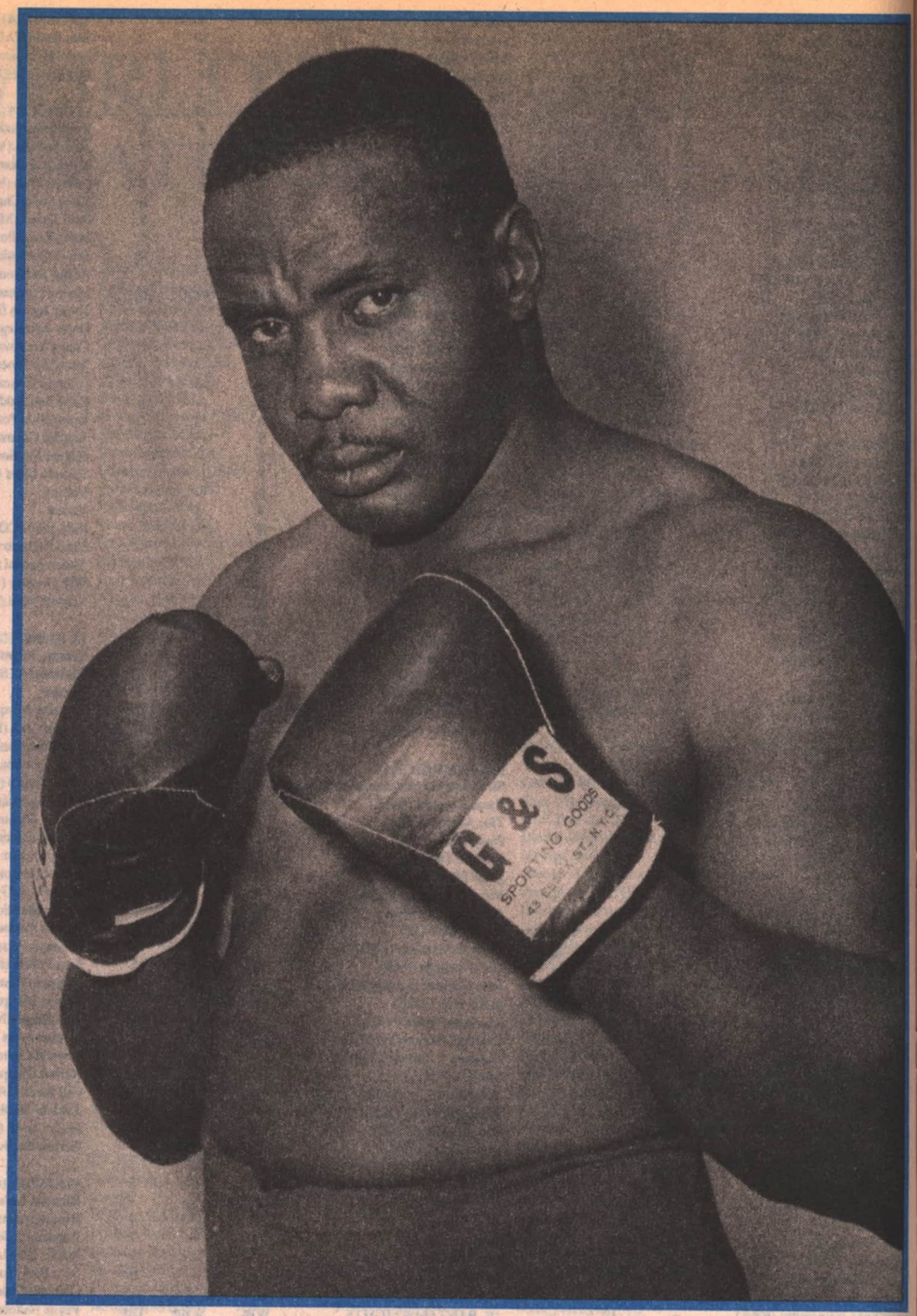
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	5	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	3	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	4	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	5	10	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	3	–
Danny Romero (USA)	7	–	1
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	8	–	–
Young Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	10	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	–
Andy Agosto (PR)	17	4	4
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	6	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	7	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	8	–
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	9	–
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	15	12	3
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	7
Solo Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	9
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	2	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	3	10	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	5	–	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	6	3	9
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	7	9	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	8	–	8
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	9	–	–
Chang Jae Kwon (KOR)	10	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	1	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	2	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	4	3
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	6	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	–	7	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	27	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ilido Julio (COL)	21	–	4
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Somthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	29	12	7
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	12
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	11	–
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	3	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	4	8	10
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	6	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	7	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	8	–	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	9	4	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	10	12	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	2	3
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	3	–
Phanieng Akradet Gym (THA)	–	5	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	7	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	9	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	10	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	2
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	5
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	6
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	7
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	–	8
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	9

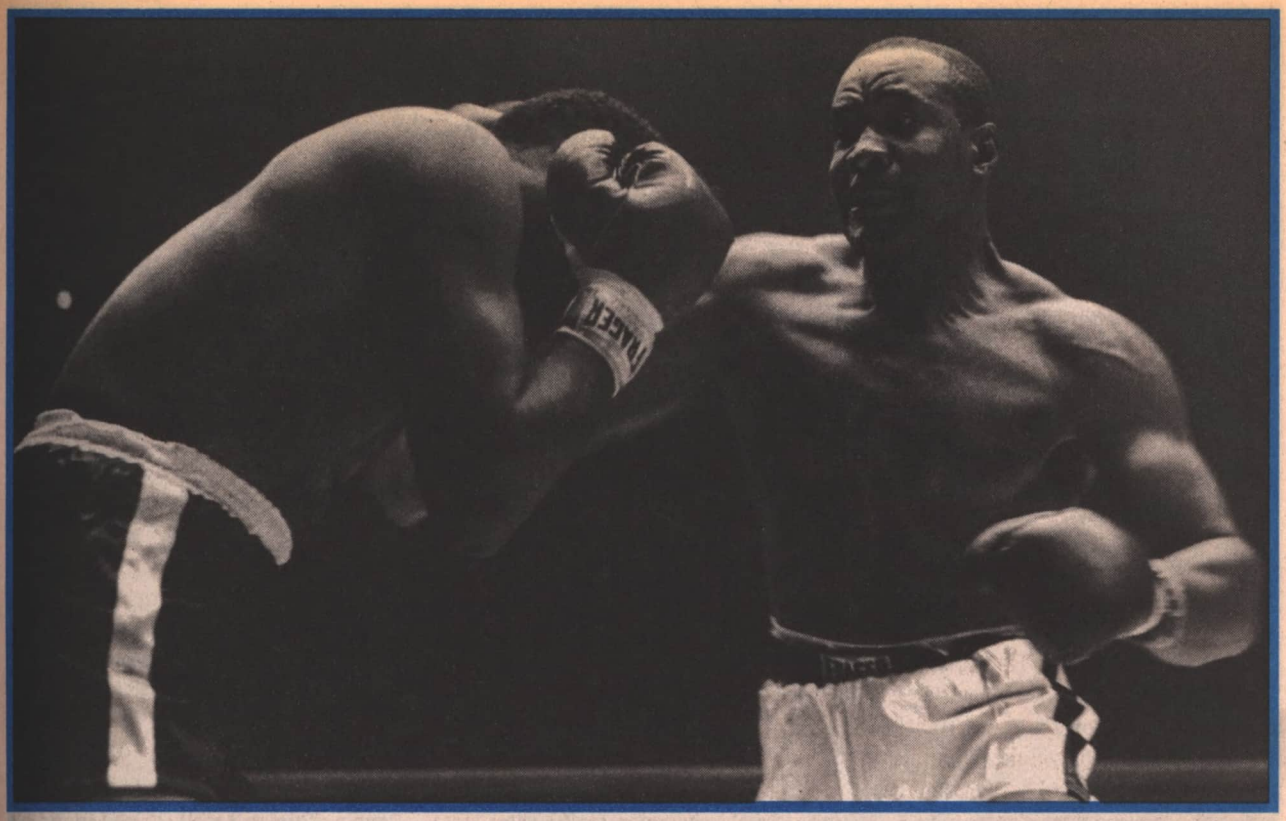
STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	3	–	9
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	4	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	5	9	–
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	6	–	12
Lindi Memani (SA)	7	11	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	8	–	–
Domingo Guillen (DR)	9	–	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	10	–	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	5	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	22	6	–
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	7	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	27	8	–
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	12	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	–	–	2
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	6
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	7
Boy Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Carlos Eluaiza (ARG)	–	–	10

CLASSIC



HOW GOOD IS LISTON?

From THE RING, October 1963



Liston successfully defended his title against former champ Floyd Patterson in Las Vegas. In two fights, Patterson never made it through the first round with the hard-hitting heavyweight champion, leading Jimmie Bronson to predict that Liston will "bestride the world like a colossus" in the years to come.

By Ted Carroll

As was freely predicted by keen observers, Sonny Liston's past is rapidly being obscured by his prowess. The public is becoming increasingly awestruck by his mighty physique, terrifying power, shockproof chin, ring cunning, honest efforts, and domination of the field.

Comedian Joe E. Lewis spoke the thoughts of many Americans when in answer to a question as to whom the fearsome Sonny should fight next, he replied, "I wish he'd fight Russia."

Liston has reached that point at which the inevitable comparisons are being made between him and the more formidable champions of the past. Bracketing Sonny with Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, and Rocky Marciano would have been called rank heresy not so long ago. But most fight people now are in general agreement that any heavyweight that ever lived would have had his hands full with the hulking giant who now wears the crown.

One of the first to come to this conclusion—even before Liston became the world champion—was boxing's eminent goodwill ambassador emeritus these many years, Jimmie Bronson.

"This fellow Liston is one of the most powerful fighters I have ever laid eyes on," remarked Bronson more than two years ago, following one of Sonny's television knockouts. "He doesn't appear to be human, no one can hurt him, and sometimes I think he has never hit a man as hard as he really can. I predict he will 'bestride the world like a colossus' for many years to come."

Hearkening back to Bronson's prophecy, the last sports figure to be so described was the great home run hitting ballplayer Babe Ruth, long known as the "Colossus Of Clout," an appellation which seems even more fitting in Liston's case.

"Liston is not only bigger and heavier than most good heavyweights, he comes to fight and not to fool around," observes 75-year-old Jack "Doc" Moore. "The other guy knows that he means business and that things are going to be rough from the very start. A lot of money could have been made if Floyd Patterson had lasted five rounds. But Liston was in there to get him out as quickly as he could, and no funny business. If I had a guy fighting him, I'd either want one of Sonny's hands tied behind his back, or give my man a shotgun."

While he concedes it would be rough going, retired undefeated champion Rocky Marciano's long-time trainer, Charley Goldman, would have risked "The Brockton Blockbuster" in there with Liston with just his two fists.

"Let's not kid ourselves about this Liston," begins gnomelike Charley. "This is a fellow who has licked the clever fellows, Machen and Folley, the puncher Cleveland Williams, and the fast guy Patterson. Results are what count and Sonny has given us results. But so did Rocky. He beat all kinds of fellows, too, and a lot easier the second time around."

Asked what the corner instructions would be to Marciano in a visionary Liston fight, Charley answered, "Hit him in the body. He's a big man with a lot of weight to carry around, and since most of his fights have ended quickly, nobody knows how much endurance he would have if a fight got into the late rounds."

The obvious question at this point in Charley's analysis seemed to be just how a

Liston foe lasts until a late round without fleeing in terror. But this interruption was foregone as the derby-hatted little trainer continued, "I know a lot of people are saying it's a good thing Rocky retired before this guy Liston showed up. But they're forgetting Rocky was exceptionally strong and an exceptional puncher, too. Not only that. Rocky had certain moves that nobody he fought ever got wise to.

"Rocky was no picture fighter and many a guy would say to me, 'Rocky don't look so good in there.' I'd come back with, 'That guy lying on the floor don't look so good either.'

"The next time you see Charley Rose, tell him to stop spreading those stories about how much Charley Goldman can eat. He does that to put the attention on me, while he's eating everything in sight."

Mention of Rose sent THE RING's man hustling around to Charley's hotel for his report on the Liston-Patterson fight, as well as the rumor that on the return plane trip to New York from Las Vegas he had out-eaten Marciano three dinners to two.

"Yes," chuckled the sprightly septuagenarian, "I was giving Rocky almost 40 years, but I had a little edge because on a plane, my appetite gets bigger. Rocky does better on the ground.

Rocky Marciano's best bet in a fight with Liston would be to work the body, according to his long-time trainer, Charley Goldman. Liston has not proven an ability to go the distance, causing the advantage to shift in favor of "The Brockton Blockbuster" as the fight wears on.

"As for Liston, I have seen every heavyweight champion for 63 years since Jeffries, and I want to go on record as saying that Liston would have been tough for the best of them. He hit Patterson in the body with punches that hurt everybody in the place, they were so heavy. I thought poor Floyd was going to break in half a couple of times. I really think Liston felt a little sorry for him, too, the way he put his arm around him when the fight ended."

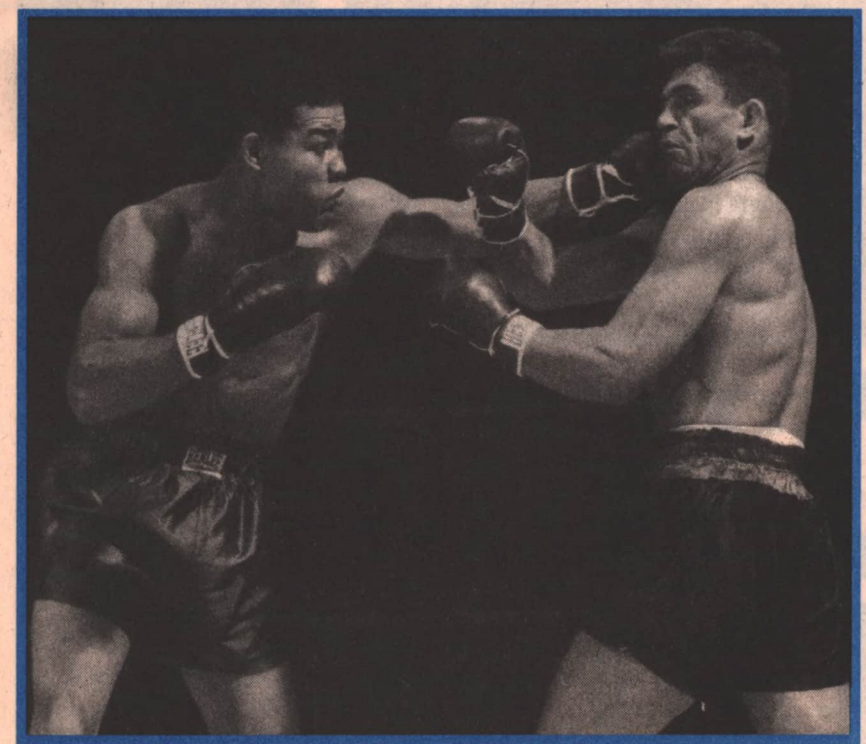
Charley was asked as to which former champion would have posed the biggest threat to Liston.

"Louis could punch with this fellow, especially with a left hook, and his combinations were faster. But there's still another thing about this Liston. I noticed that when Patterson landed a real good right hand, it made Liston fight even harder. Then he really blasted Patterson. Louis was a faster puncher and he might have landed first, but then the war would have been on, and Joe would have needed everything he ever had to get over this guy."

Charley's last remark recalled a similar opinion cast by old-time Louis manager John Roxborough shortly before Liston's fight with Patterson last year. While he would have favored his one-time protege, Louis, it would have been a most difficult assignment for "The Brown Bomber.

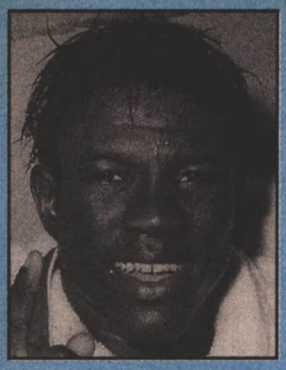
A lucky encounter with George Nicholson, long-time Louis sparmate, now a New York State housing policeman in the vicinity of Madison Square Garden, added interesting comment on the Liston-Louis topic.

George said: "Nobody can say that Liston wouldn't have been tough for Louis



A Louis-Liston fight would undoubtedly be a war, as "The Brown Bomber" would have to rely on his powerful left hook and superior hand speed to topple Liston.

THE RING RATINGS, October 1963



Emile Griffith

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sonny Liston (USA)
1. **Cassius Clay** (USA)
2. **Doug Jones** (USA)
3. **Ernest Terrell** (USA)
4. **Floyd Patterson** (USA)
5. **Cleveland Williams** (USA)
6. **Zora Folley** (USA)
7. **Billy Daniels** (USA)
8. **Henry Cooper** (England)
9. **Karl Mildenberger** (Germany)
10. **Robert Cleroux** (Canada)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Willie Pastrano (USA)
1. **Harold Johnson** (USA)
2. **Giulio Rinaldi** (Italy)
3. **Mauro Mina** (Peru)
4. **Eddie Cotton** (USA)
5. **Henry Hank** (USA)
6. **Bobo Olson** (USA)
7. **Wayne Thornton** (USA)
8. **Chic Calderwood** (Scotland)
9. **Gustav Scholz** (Germany)
10. **Allen Thomas** (USA)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Dick Tiger (Nigeria)
1. **Joey Giardello** (USA)
2. **Laszlo Papp** (Hungary)
3. **Gene Fullmer** (USA)
4. **Joey Archer** (USA)
5. **George Benton** (USA)
6. **Luis Folledo** (Spain)
7. **Terry Downes** (England)
8. **Joe Gonzales** (USA)
9. **Rubin Carter** (USA)
10. **Denny Moyer** (USA)

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith (USA)
1. **Luis Rodriguez** (USA)
2. **Ralph Dupas** USA)
3. **Brian Curvis** (Wales)
4. **Jose Stable** (USA)
5. **Rip Randall** (USA)
6. **Dick Turner** (USA)
7. **Federico Thompson** (Argentina)
8. **Curtis Cokes** (USA)
9. **Gaspar Ortega** (Mexico)
10. **Stan Harrington** (USA)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eddie Perkins (USA)
1. **Roberto Cruz** (Phillipines)
2. **Louis Molina** (USA)
3. **Angel Garcia** (France)
4. **Battling Torres** (Mexico)
5. **Aissa Hashas** (France)
6. **Jose Napoles** (Mexico)
7. **Bobby Scanlon** (USA)
8. **Abel Laundonio** (Argentina)
9. **Manuel Alvarez** (Argentina)
10. **Sammy McSpadden** (Scotland)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Ortiz (USA)
1. **Kenny Lane** (USA)
2. **Carlos Hernandez** (Venezuela)
3. **Dave Charnley** (England)
4. **Alfredo Urbina** (Mexico)
5. **Bunny Grant** (Jamaica)
6. **Paul Armstead** (USA)
7. **Doug Vaillant** (Cuba)
8. **Teruo Kosaka** (Japan)
9. **Nicolino Loche** (Argentina)
10. **Joe Brown** (USA)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Gabriel Elorde (Phillipines)
1. **Love Allotey** (Ghana)
2. **Johnny Bizzarro** (USA)
3. **Auburn Copeland** (USA)
4. **Yukio Katsumato** (Japan)
5. **Vincente Derado** (Argentina)
6. **Jose Luis Cruz** (Mexico)
7. **Kazuo Takayama** (Japan)
8. **Wally Taylor** (Australia)
9. **Young Terror** (Phillipines)
10. **Mel Middleton** (USA)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sugar Ramos (Mexico)
1. **Mitsunori Seki** (Japan)
2. **Howard Winstone** (Wales)
3. **Rafiu King** (Nigeria)
4. **Ismael Laguna** (Panama)
5. **Danny Valdez** (USA)
6. **Don Johnson** (USA)
7. **Jet Bally** (Phillipines)
8. **Antonio Herrera** (Colombia)
9. **Billy Calvert** (England)
10. **Willi Quartor** (Germany)

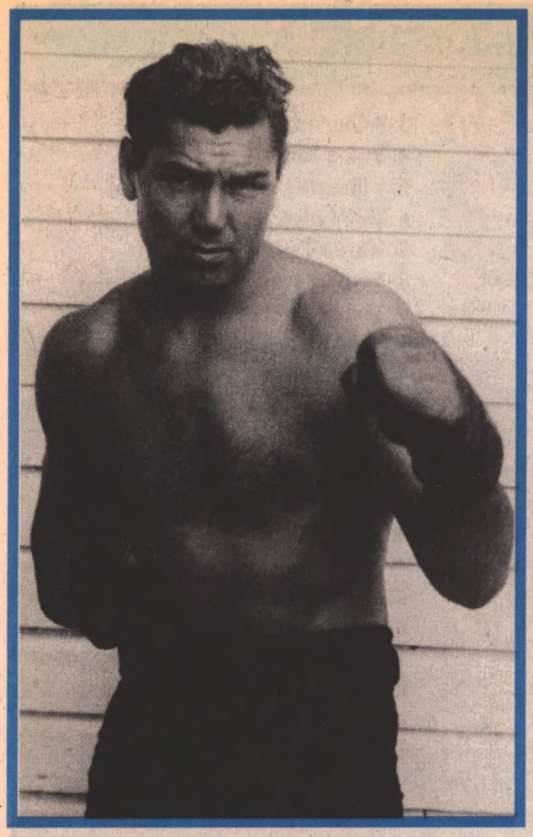
BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eder Jofre (Brazil)
1. **Fighting Harada** (Japan)
2. **Alphonse Halimi** (France)
3. **Joe Medel** (Mexico)
4. **Katsutoshi Aoki** (Japan)
5. **Mimun Ben Ali** (Spain)
6. **Piero Rollo** (Italy)
7. **Freddie Gilroy** (Ireland)
8. **Ronnie Jones** (USA)
9. **Manny Berrios** (Mexico)
10. **Ray Asis** (USA)

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pone Kingpetch (Thailand)
1. **Salvatore Burruni** (Italy)
2. **Bernardo Carraballo** (Colombia)
3. **Hiroyuki Ebihara** (Japan)
4. **Horacio Accavallo** (Argentina)
5. **Leo Zulueta** (Phillipines)
6. **Pascual Perez** (Argentina)
7. **Ramon Arias** (Venezuela)
8. **Natalio Jiminez** (Dominican Republic)
9. **Walter McGowan** (Scotland)
10. **Takeshi Nakamura** (Japan)

or anybody else. He's a mighty powerful man, and he showed something against Patterson that few people thought he had, a good straight right and an uppercut that he sneaked right through that peek-a-boo defense of Patterson's. But people forget that Louis had a good shifting movement from side to side."

George demonstrated it on New York's Eighth Avenue as onlookers gaped.

"Joe was pretty good at slipping punches. It's suicide for any man to come to Liston on a straight line. He eats that up because besides his left hook he throws good straight punches.



According to George Nicholson, Jack Dempsey would be a 7-5 favorite against Liston. Dempsey would have the edge in speed and resiliency, though Liston's pure power and weight advantage would keep things interesting.

"Liston is not a real fast puncher as Louis was, but Joe would be in danger every minute, and betting on either one wouldn't be the thing for a nervous man."

Speaking of betting, inquiry among boxing pricemakers brought out some interesting bits. Said one: "If I were setting the odds on a fight between Liston as he is today, and either Dempsey, Louis, or Marciano when they were going good, I would have Sonny on the short end. But no worse than 7-5 against Dempsey, and Louis 6-5.

"Pick-'em, that's actually even money, against Rocky. Dempsey's edge in the price would come because of his speed and he took a good punch, although Liston would be 25 pounds heavier.

"With Louis it would be a case of who got there first. Louis has much faster hands, but I think Liston takes a better punch than Louis. Liston's big weight edge over Rocky would be evened out by the good condition Marciano was always in. A fight between them would have gotten better for Rocky the longer it lasted. Liston is too big and powerful for anybody else I can think of and would be at least 2-1."

Strangely enough, in coupling Liston with the great ones of the past, nearly all of those contacted summarily served up the names of Dempsey, Louis, and Marciano as mythical opponents for the "Big Bear." These were all power men like Liston. Since Eddie Machen, the only man to go the limit with Sonny since 1958, did so with anything but power tactics, perhaps the most likely victor over Liston would have been found among the smart boxers such as Gene Tunney, Billy Conn, or Ezzard Charles.

When questioned about this phase of imaginary success over Liston, astute George Gainford replied crisply, "You asked me about a guy to lick Liston, not somebody just to go the distance like Machen did. A clever fellow might get lucky, like Willie Pastrano did against Harold Johnson. You or I might win a sweepstakes, too, but you can't count on that kind of thing.

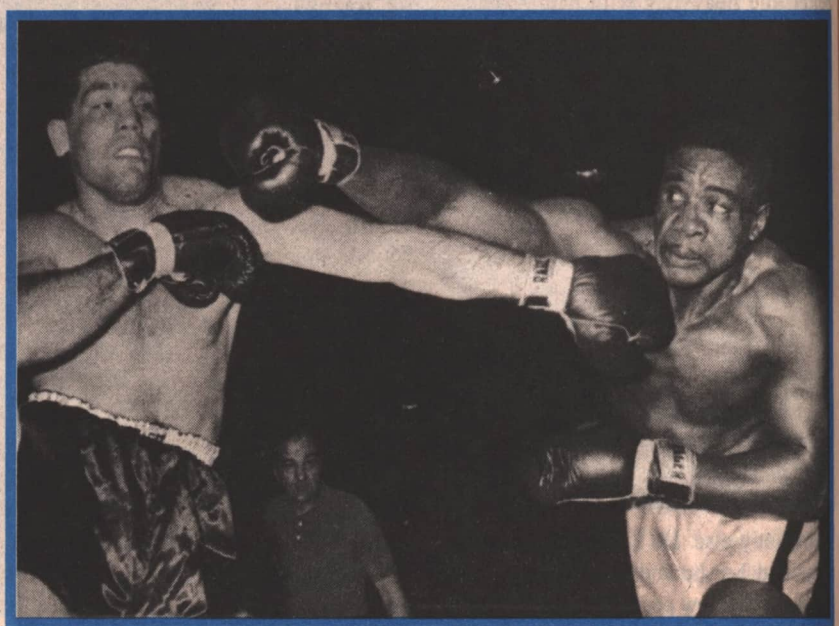
"Fellows like Tunney, Conn, or Charles, all smaller men, would need plenty of luck to last through 15 rounds with a man like Liston, who may be slow but is no fool in there. They couldn't really hurt him, and sooner or later he'd catch up with them. To have a chance with Liston, give me a punching fellow like Louis or Marciano."

In any such speculative spectrum as mythical matches between champions of different eras, one man's guess is as good as another's. That we now have a champion in Sonny Liston who is evoking comparisons with the best who have gone before is most encouraging to those who favor boxing, and that takes in most of the male population.

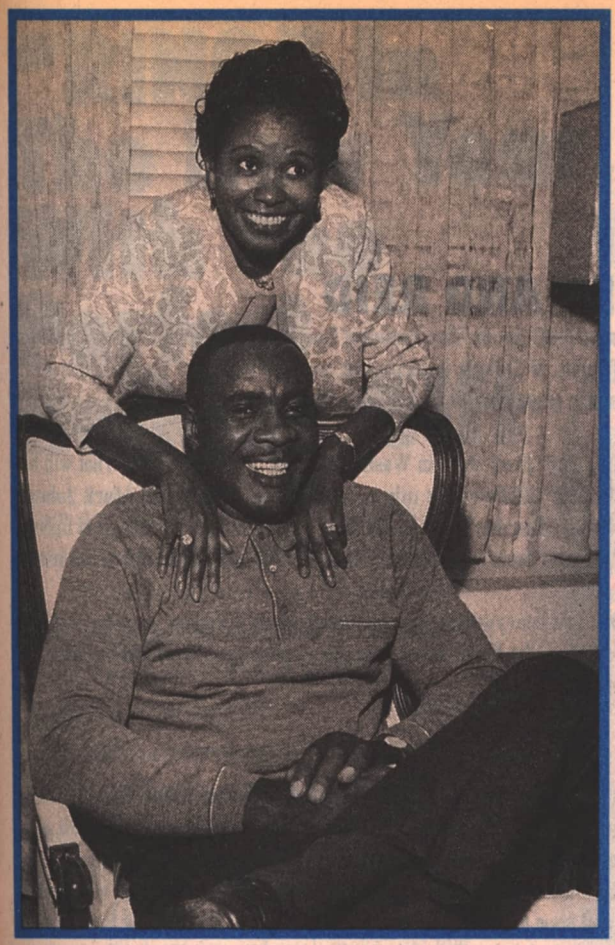
Since they can never be put to the test, arguments over the prospective merits of past and present fighters are not only stimulating, they are also satisfying, since no one can ever be proven right or wrong.

Besides his emergence as a titleholder of extreme formidability, Liston is beginning to show evidences of becoming a popular champion. The roaring reception he received upon his return to Denver following his demolition job on Patterson came as a nationwide surprise, and Mayor Tom Currigan greeted him with an effusive, "Wonderful to have you home ... "

Considering that Liston's residence in the western city is of less than a year's duration, he must have made a most desirable impression in that short space of time. For all his terrifying buildup, Liston goes over big with women and children, when he turns on the charm. At this he is surpris-



Liston can take punches as well as dish them out. Although a smart, strategically sound boxer might find a way to last 15 rounds, only a power puncher would stand a chance of knocking Liston out.



Liston, seen relaxing with his wife, Geraldine, has become a charming and popular champion, despite his fearsome demeanor inside the ring.

ingly adept when in the mood.

Female vacationers in both the Catskills and Las Vegas stared as though mesmerized by his massive masculinity, as he belted the heavybag with hammer blows which fascinated rather than frightened. When the big fellow smiles, children flock about him as though confident that with this mighty giant about they are safe from all harm.

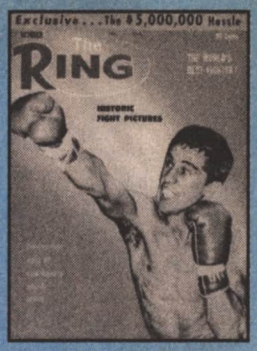
Liston also made friends by his compassionate admission that he was glad that Patterson was counted out following the third knockdown and he did not have to hit him again. His moods with the press remain mercurial, but he is only one of an endless line of sports figures whose press relations have been abrasive. There are traces of a growing rapport between him and the writing fraternity.

Father Edward Murphy, of Denver, minimizes his part in the changing image of Sonny Liston, but of all those involved with the champion up to now, most of the credit belongs to him.

Liston has such a ready wit that a compilation of his funny cracks could stock a comedy act. Cassius Clay, poetry and all, has yet to outscore him in an ad-libbing duel.

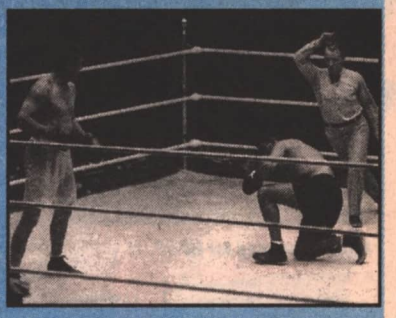
Liston has said that his great ambition is to rival Joe Louis as a champion. Performance wise, his prospects are excellent. But rivalling Joe as a man is something else again. That's a real tough job for Liston—or anybody else. But it's not impossible. It's up to Sonny. ■

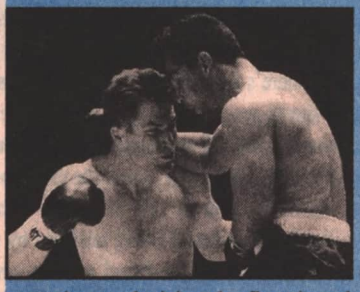
The Cover: Bantamweight champion Eder Jofre is determined by THE RING to be pound-for-pound the world's finest fighter. The Brazilian boxer, whom Managing Editor Nat Loubet labels "a small 'Sugar,'" earns the coveted spot on the cover of the magazine's 500th issue.



The Waiting Game: Dan Daniel reports that the much-anticipated Liston-Clay fight will not take place in 1963, much to the dismay of the eager Cassius. Following his second victory over Floyd Patterson, Liston looks forward to a lengthy vacation in Europe. Clay, meanwhile, announces that his opportunity will surely come in 1964 and that he will take no chances with tuneups before then.

Happy 500th: Editor Nat Fleischer provides a nostalgic look back at the most memorable moments of THE RING's first 41 years. Among his favorite fights were Tunney-Dempsey II (pictured), Louis-Schmeling II, and Marciano-Walcott I.





Wayne's World: Light heavyweight contender Wayne Thornton writes that he deserves and would make the most of a shot at new champion Willie Pastrano. Thornton had fought Pastrano three times before he won the title, winning by unanimous decision the first time they fought (pictured) and managing a draw in their second encounter.

Fighter Of The Month: Nigerian middleweight champ Dick Tiger receives the honor after becoming only the second man to kayo Gene Fullmer in what would turn out to be Fullmer's final fight. Tiger was at the top of his game, forcing Fullmer to give in seven rounds into the third fight of their classic series.

LOOKING AHEAD

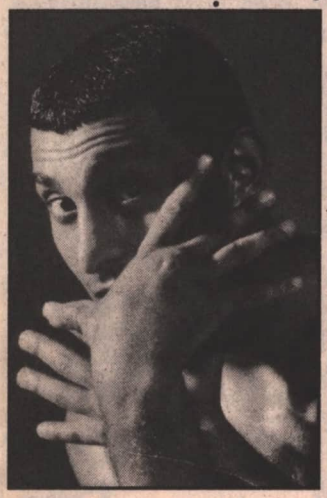
By Nigel Collins

HBO WOOING HAMED AND REID

After talking with British promoter **Frank Warren**, HBO Sports Vice President **Lou DiBella** is hopeful of signing featherweight sensation **Naseem Hamed** for a series of fights. If DiBella is successful, you can expect to see a Hamed-**Kevin Kelley** showdown sometime in early-1998. HBO is also negotiating with **America Presents** in order to secure a long-term deal with Olympic hero **David Reid**.

"Reid will be the third fight on our January *Boxing After Dark* show in Washington, D.C.," said DiBella. "That will be a triple-header with **Bernard Hopkins** defending the IBF middleweight title against **Simon Brown** and **Mark Johnson** defending the IBF flyweight title against **Arthur Johnson**. You don't hear much about Arthur, but he's a very good fighter. I thought he was robbed when he lost a 12-round decision to Johnny Tapia in 1995, and that's one of the reasons we're giving him a shot."

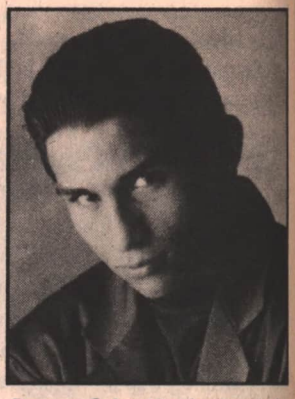
DiBella also told THE RING that WBC light heavyweight champion **Roy Jones** is looking to make his heavyweight debut in San Diego the weekend before the Super Bowl. Possible opponents include **Herbie Hide**, and the **Obed Sullivan-Hasim Rahman** winner.



Hamed: Headed for HBO?

LISTEN UP

West Coast Fans can always count on **Forum Boxing** for a steady diet of quality fights. The Inglewood, California-based promotional outfit staged a total of 26 cards in 1997—12 at the Great Western Forum, six at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, five in Las Vegas, and one in Lake Tahoe. "We figure to do at least as many, most likely more shows next year," said Forum Director of Public Relations **John Beyrooty**. "We're very high on featherweight **Juan Manuel Marquez**, and hope to get him a title shot in '98. We're also looking forward to the return of **Marco Antonio Barrera**. He was scheduled to fight for us twice since his second loss to **Junior Jones**, but had hand problems." Another house fighter who will get a big push from Forum Boxing in '98 is undefeated heavyweight **Ed Mahone** ... According to his father, **Danny Romero** has pretty much given up on getting a rematch with **Johnny Tapia**. Instead, look for the former IBF flyweight and junior bantamweight titlist to go after the 118-pound belt in early-'98. "We'd like to fight WBA champion **Nana Konadu**," said **Danny Romero Sr.** "But both Konadu and IBF champ **Tim Austin** are promoted by Don King, so that might make it tough. But if Danny becomes the number one contender, he can force a mandatory." ... Can't get enough of those beefy *Heavyweight Explosion* cards? Well, there's a possibility that **Cedric Kushner Promotions** will expand from its current 12-shows-per-year format to 24 heavyweight-heavy cards next year. "It's under consideration," said CKP spokesman **Gregory Juckett**. "Right now, I'd say it's 50-50" ... An attempt to bring big-venue boxing back to Philadelphia was launched in November with the first in a series of cards at the CoreStates Center (home of the Sixers and the Flyers), televised by the Comcast SportsNet. The fights will be promoted by **Joe Hand** and his son, **Joe Jr.**, who have been involved in closed-circuit and pay-per-view boxing for more than 30 years. The Hands hope to stage 12 shows per year.



Romero: Going after bantam belt

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Junior Jones	Kennedy McKinney	3-1	Would've been great two years ago
Junior Jones	Erik Morales	7-5	Morales only fighter with a chance at 122
Naseem Hamed	Kevin Kelley	4-1	Kelley's past his prime
Andrew Golota	David Tua	9-5	Very interesting bout. Must-win for both
Lennox Lewis	Tim Witherspoon	4-1	Too late for 'Spoon

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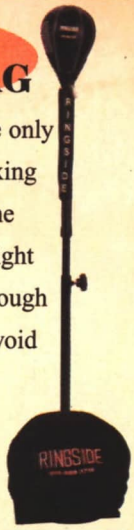
BACK TO THE BASICS

Cobra Reflex Bag

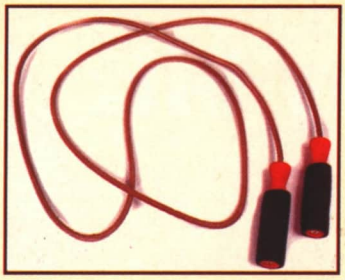


Henry Armstrong is the only man in the history of boxing to simultaneously hold the title in three separate weight divisions. He did this through his masterful ability to avoid being hit. His cobra-like reflexes and hand speed are the mark of a true champion in any era.

STYLE	Your Price
#CRB-1 (Filled Base)	$119.99
(Plus $25.00 Add'l. Shipping)	
#CRBU-1 (Unfilled Base)	$99.99
(Plus $5.00 Add'l. Shipping)	

Leather Speed Rope

Even a young **Sonny Liston** knew the importance of foot speed and endurance. A good speed rope is **vital** to gaining durability and the agility needed in the ring.



STYLE	Your Price
#JR7 (7.5ft)	$11.99
#JR8 (8.5ft)	$12.99
#JR9 (9.5ft)	$13.99

Exact Target Bag

In the late 1920s the boxing "dummy" became popular. Like many champions of the day, **Jack Dempsey** assumed that the more realistic the target, the better the preparation. With human contouring and life-like features, these dummies made great sparring partners.

STYLE	Your Price
#ET	$139.99
(Plus $15.00 Add'l. Shipping)	

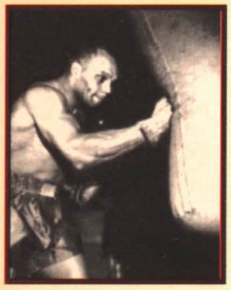
Professional Fight Gloves

The professional fight glove has undergone enormous changes since **Harry Greb** won the middleweight title in 1923. The importance of safety and comfort is as timeless as the ability to out-score and out-punch your opponent.

STYLE	Your Price
#PFG-8	$110.00
#PFG-10R (Regular Hand Size)	$110.00
#PFG-10L (Large Hand Size)	$110.00
Prices are for a set of 4 gloves	

Available in Red, White, Black or Blue.

Free-Standing Heavybag



The basic hanging heavybag has long been a central piece of equipment for fighters of the past and present. Fighters of **Jersey Joe's** era could have only imagined a free-standing heavybag that could provide such an intense and flexible workout.

STYLE	Your Price
#FHB	$259.99
(Plus $25.00 Add'l. Shipping)	

Super Body Protector

Hard-hitting champions of the past like **Stanley Ketchel** often had problems getting durable sparring partners. While training for his fight with Jack Johnson, Ketchel honed his body attack with his sparring partner, who used a quilted blanket to protect his mid-section.

STYLE	Your Price
#SBP	$42.99

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